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# ROCKY MOUNT

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Mayor's message</b>	2
City events	4-5
<b>Meet City Council</b>	6-7
<b>Public Safety and Community Outreach</b>	
City's Police Chief is Headed in the Right Direction	8-9
Community Outreach	10
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	
Summer Night Lights	11
USA South	11
BBQ Throwdown	12
Sports Complex	13
Senior Center	14
<b>Green Initiatives</b>	
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle	15-18
Public Utilities	18
RP3 Designation	
APGA Award	
<b>Hometown Heroes and Helping Hands</b>	
City Employees named Hometown Heroes	19
W.A.R.M. Program	20
City Assists United Way and the American Heart Association	21
<b>Fire Department Accreditation</b>	22
<b>Community Economic Development</b>	
City Manager's Column	23
PNC Provides Opportunity for Eastern North Carolina	23-24
Raleigh Blvd/ "New Name, New Image"	24
A Conversation with Lewis Musser, a Resident of the Douglas Block	25
Progress Seen in Downtown Rocky Mount	26-27
<b>Events Calendar for 2012 and 2013</b>	28-30
City Budget	31
Tax Info	31
City Directory	31



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# MY Rocky Mount

Rocky Mount has been around for many years. With beginnings that date back to the early 19th century, I take pride in our City, which is rich in history. I am sure you know about the Rocky Mount at the Fall of the Tar River. The Mound, by which we derived our current name of Rocky Mount, was the site of one of the state's first cotton mills, a major reason why the town of Rocky Mount transitioned into our present-day City.

Furthermore, it is great to know our train station, which was another major cause for the area's growth, is still prominent in this community. I also relish in the achievements which have been made in Rocky Mount, having previously been named an All-America City twice, witnessing the creation of a popular Sports Complex, the continuous growth of Rocky Mount to a population of nearly 60,000, renovations of our Downtown and much, much more.

But, Rocky Mount is not without adversity. I have seen the effects of Hurricanes Floyd and Irene and the decline of some businesses due to a national economic crisis. Regardless, I have also seen us prevail. Despite it all, we are a resilient community.

I am David Combs, Mayor of Rocky Mount, and I am proud to present this annual magazine which highlights MY City. The real ownership of Rocky Mount, however, belongs to us all, hence the title of this magazine, "*MY Rocky Mount*." If you were raised here, I am sure you have stories to tell about your experiences in school, in the nearby parks, and some of the challenges in the City you

can recall. If you are just moving to the area, you may have already claimed a section of the City you adore, a venue you frequent, or you have heard about some Rocky Mount history that fascinates you. Regardless, it too is your City.

In this first issue of MY Rocky Mount, I hope you will learn some new aspects about your City, such as the

tremendous economic impact of the Sports Complex which has been around since 2006; how the Police

Department has enhanced initiatives and honed programs in the fight against crime; why the City's "green" efforts can have positive effects on all residents; how international accreditation for the City's Fire Department translates into saving more lives; and why the revitalization of Downtown is so significant for

everyone in Rocky Mount.

No matter what, this is MY Rocky Mount. I take pride in my City; I work diligently to ensure that I help to make Rocky Mount a great place to live; I strive to make Rocky Mount a destination location for tourists; and I relay the many positive aspects of our City to possible residents, knowing this will translate into growth for our area and ultimately for our economy. Will you do the same?

I hope you will learn more about the City of Rocky Mount after reading the pages of this magazine. I hope you will be proud of what we have worked so hard together to accomplish, and I hope, if you haven't done so already, you too will joyfully claim ownership of this area and exclaim to the world, "This is MY Rocky Mount."





# SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

Lots of great things are always happening in our city. Here's a snapshot of a few of the standout events which have taken place in Rocky Mount this year.

**The Lincoln Park Historic Designation:** City officials, former residents of the Lincoln Park subdivision and/or their descendants gathered Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 1000 Leggett Road to pay homage to an area built in the 1940's, catering exclusively to African Americans.

The Lincoln Park Historic District, consisting of a housing subdivision, motel and restaurant, was officially designated as a national historic district in January 2012. Many can remember the restaurant, which was known for its barbecue and visits from celebrities like Mahalia Jackson and B.B. King.



*Vanette Woods, the daughter of Clarence Pittman who once managed the restaurant and motel.*



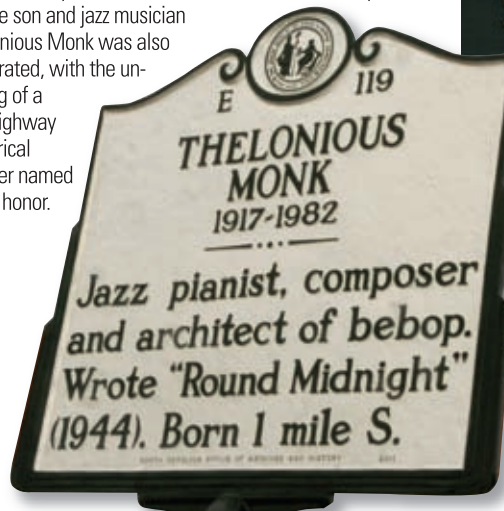
*Residents watch as the Lincoln Park marker is unveiled.*



*Allen Mercer once owned the restaurant and motel in Lincoln Park.*

**Harambee Festival:** A weekend of activities which promoted and celebrated the heritage and cultural development of Rocky Mount's African American community.

Native son and jazz musician Thelonious Monk was also celebrated, with the unveiling of a NC Highway Historical Marker named in his honor.





**Downtown Live:** The City's free outdoor concert series took place all summer long. From May 17, 2012 to September 20, 2012, bands provided entertainment on the lawn of the Imperial Centre.



**July 3rd Celebration:** The City of Rocky Mount hosted the 41st annual Independence Celebration at the Rocky Mount Sports Complex. This year's festivities were sponsored by PNC and included games, activities and entertainment from the Voltage Brothers.



**Rockin' Classic Auto Expo:** The first ever Rockin' Classic Auto Expo took place in Downtown Rocky Mount, showcasing antique cars dating from as far back as the 1930's.





*(Front row, l-r) Tom Rogers, Chris Carroll Miller, Mayor David W. Combs, Lois Watkins and W.B. Bullock (Standing, l-r) Andre Knight, Lamont Wiggins and Reuben C. Blackwell, IV*

# Q&A

## Mayor David Combs and Rocky Mount City Council

### Mayor David Combs

**How long have you been Mayor?** I have served one four-year term as Mayor and one four-year term on the City Council. I am in my second four-year term as Mayor. I was unopposed during the last election. I hope that means that the people of Rocky Mount feel like I am doing a good job.

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** It was an honor to serve the people of Rocky Mount during my first term so I am happy that I was given the opportunity to continue to serve as Mayor.

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** My goals continue to be driven by what I feel are the biggest concerns of our citizens: crime and public safety will continue to be a focus. I want people to feel safe in our city. My other goals are economic development, which will create jobs in our community; try to find ways to reduce the cost of utilities and be competitive with other utility providers; continued development of our central City/Downtown area - bring it back to life by trying to build private/public partnerships to make that a reality; working with education partners in our area to make sure we are continually improving our quality of education; improving dropout rates, and making sure we have job ready students graduating from our high schools and community colleges; working in the community to make sure we have enough affordable housing; and continued efforts to help people see our community as a great place to live and do business by focusing on all the positive assets we have in our community and working on those areas we need to improve.



## W1

**Andre Knight**  
(Ward 1)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since 2003.

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** It is an honor to be able to serve the citizens of Rocky Mount and to be a part of local government. As a Rocky Mount native, it is an added incentive to help the people of my City.

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** My primary goals are as follows: to ensure that we have fairness, economic development, decent housing and a safe City. I will also work diligently for our residents to have a better quality of life and to become an advocate for our youth. We must work together to make sure that our children excel by providing an environment conducive to creating better opportunities. I would also like for utility rates to be as low as possible.

## W2

**Reuben C. Blackwell, IV**  
(Mayor Pro Tem, Ward 2)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since 2000.

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** Being a City Council member is very gratifying. It's humbling to know that people trust you to represent their concerns and needs. It also makes me accountable for the conversations that I have related to the work of the City and the actions that I take. Additionally, it makes me feel that I can't do anything alone; I have to have the input and buy-in of the

other council members before anything is done. It creates a sense that we have to work together to move Rocky Mount forward.

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** There are many more great things about our city than there are negative things, but in order to realize the greatness, we have to work on things that are not so great. We must have revitalized inner city communities. We must have balanced business growth in our city. We must have attractive infrastructure and neighborhoods that are safe and clean.

The efforts that I have tried to involve myself with are showing people the connectedness of every aspect of government. Government must be connected to the education sector, the business sector and the grassroots community. We are all tied together. There is no us versus them; it's all us. I've tried very hard to make sure that whatever I work on is tied to as many people and sectors as possible.

## W3

**Lamont Wiggins**  
(Ward 3)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since 1997. I came on board when I was 31. I had just come back home from college and law school, and I wanted to serve on the Council because I felt that I had something to contribute to a community that was my hometown.

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** It is something I enjoy with a passion. I like building things and seeing things grow, and there have been a lot of changes throughout my lifetime, as

well as during my tenure as a Council member. . . .

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** My primary goals and interests are economic and community development. The Council as a body has put a focus on the development and redevelopment of the Downtown area and the central City corridor, and a good portion of the area that I represent is a part of that central City. I want to see an infusion and reemergence of the central City and the Downtown areas.

The City Council brings a unique skill set, and my background in real estate development and real estate transactions helps bolster an already strong background that the Council as a whole has.

## W4

**Lois Watkins**  
(Ward 4)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since March, 2007. I was appointed to fulfill Angela Bryant's unexpired term. I ran and was elected in October 2007.

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** I feel honored by the citizens of Ward 4 and the City of Rocky Mount to have been chosen to become a member of the City Council. I believe that it is a privilege to carry their power and to represent them at tables where decisions are made, decisions which determine the quality of their lives. It is an awesome responsibility, and I am committed to become worthy of the calling.

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** I think that we have a good team, a great manager and staff.

We need to continue with our community visioning process with Nash and Edgecombe counties — branding our region. In addition to that, we need to continue: forming faith-based partnerships to help with human, community and economic development; identifying resources to invest in decent and affordable housing throughout the City; creating safe and clean neighborhoods for our families and reducing utility costs. We need to continue to fight for better rates. Staff has done a great job improving customer service and offering weatherization assistance. We should also focus on small business development. Small business development is growing in the City as a whole and we need to develop a strategy for growth along inner city corridors: Raleigh Boulevard, Atlantic Avenue, Cokey Road, Fairview Road and Church Street.

We also have to figure out economic development within the African American and other minority communities. We cannot build and sustain communities on government subsidies, although they are good partners. We need to spend some time looking at how we can strategically stimulate enterprise in these communities.

## W5

**Tom Rogers**  
(Ward 5)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since 2007

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** It is an honor to represent the citizens of Ward 5 and serve as a public servant to all the citizens of Rocky Mount.

**What are your primary goals for the City of**

**Rocky Mount?** Rocky Mount has a great history, but I believe its best days are ahead. I am particularly excited about the regional visioning process and the direction that it will establish. The City of Rocky Mount must be ready to play a significant role as it always has. Fundamentally, I believe that we all want a City that is safe, livable and where there is opportunity for all. The "Together Tomorrow" Comprehensive Plan, developed a few years ago with input from citizens, staff and planning experts, guides the Council and staff in setting objectives and establishing budgets.

## W6

**W.B. Bullock**  
(Ward 6)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since 2002

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** I have enjoyed my time on the Council; I enjoy networking with people of all ages. I have always tried to help people if I can. I am interested in the conditions that are shaping the City in so many different ways.

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** I have many goals for our city, such as: the completion of the Downtown streetscape, sidewalks and buildings; more stores, restaurants and shops to locate Downtown, helping it to become a place of interest in order to draw people; and in the future I hope to see the former Ford's Colony community revived and hundreds of homes built to attract many people to the area. We should also continue to market the many attractions in our city like the Sports Complex, the Impe-

rial Centre, etc.; recruit more jobs; and train new workers at our excellent community colleges so more people may earn a good living for their families. Finally, my goal is to continue to be positive and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

## W7

**Chris Carroll Miller**  
(Ward 7)

**How long have you been a member of City Council?** Since 2002.

**How do you feel about being a City Council member?** It is my honor to represent the citizens of Ward 7. I appreciate voters' confidence in me. I am pleased to be able to work with the other Council members for the betterment of our whole city.

**What are your primary goals for the City of Rocky Mount?** My goals include: creating in our city the conditions that will attract progressive industries and good paying jobs. That means making investments in infrastructure that improve the quality of life for our residents and that attract visitors whose purchases increase the City's sales tax revenue. That means revitalizing our Downtown area...the heart and the 'front porch' of our city.

The health and safety of each part of our city affects all of us, directly or indirectly. We must all work together to maintain and improve the appearance of our neighborhoods.

## City's Police Chief is Headed in the Right Direction

Spend a few moments with Rocky Mount Police Chief James Moore and be assured that you will leave the conversation more enlightened, and sometimes with a different perspective on life. That's because the University of North Carolina-Wilmington graduate is always reading and learning to quench his thirst for knowledge.

For the past two decades, Moore has become versed in the fundamentals of leadership, law enforcement, training and more. When I (Tameka Kenan-Norman) met with Moore to discuss his efforts since taking the helm of the Rocky Mount Police Department, we first start with a rapport on the latest books that he has read. Most recently, the avid reader has become interested in the book, *It Worked for Me—Life Lessons from Colin Powell*.

"I read one book per month," says Moore. The Wilmington, N.C. native also consistently searches the web to stay current, is persistent about continued training for his officers, and maintains relationships with executive staff from police departments across the country. Moore's tenacity is one reason why new initiatives have been implemented in the Rocky Mount Police Department and why aggressive policing will continue to impact the City's criminal element.

Moore assumed the title of Police Chief on January 3, 2012. Since his eight-month tenure, Moore has already taken steps in enhancing the Police Department, thus a safer Rocky Mount community.

First, Moore began the City's Gang Unit, charged with combatting violence that is the direct result of gang activity.

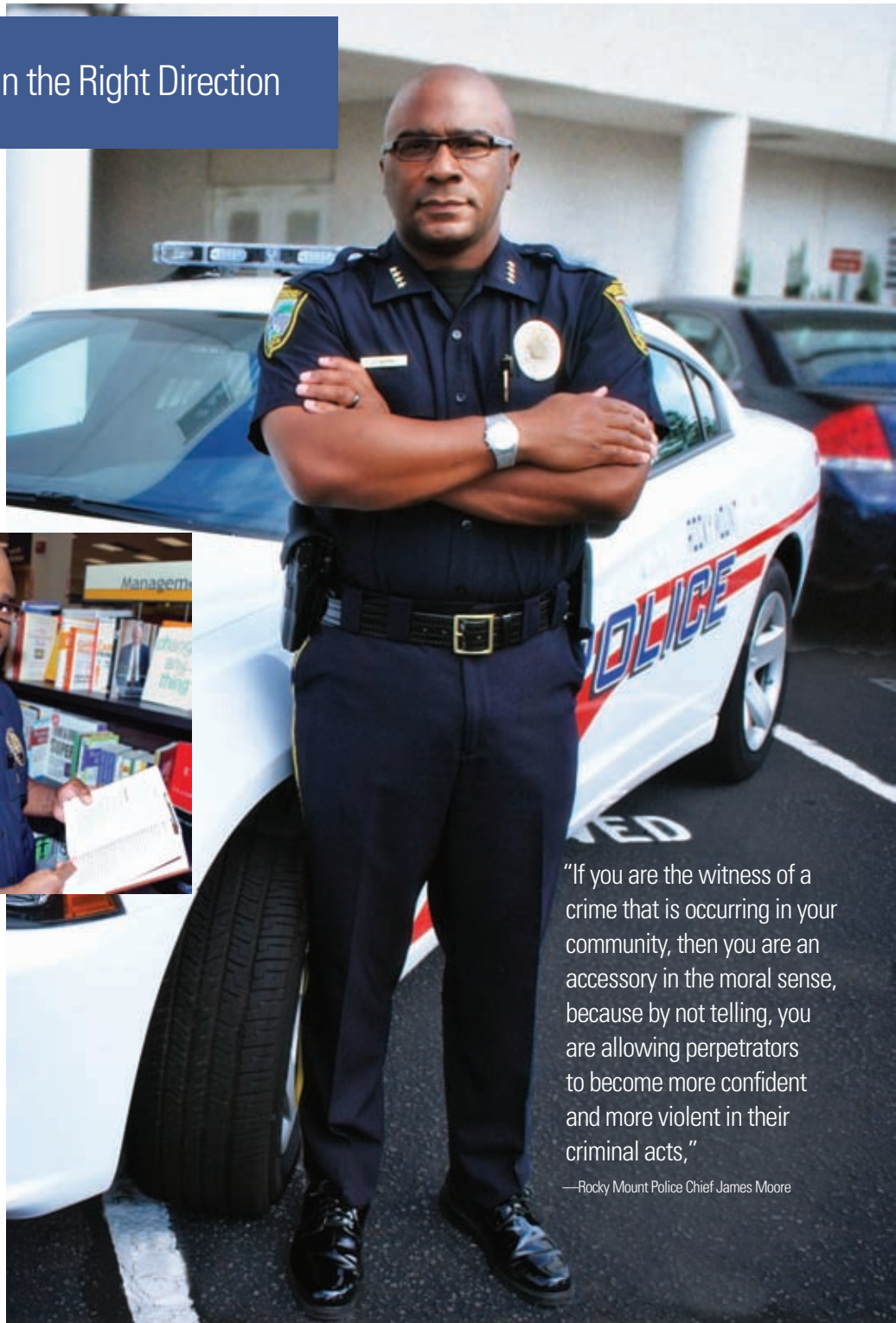
"I realized that what we needed in the unit were a group of officers to gather intelligence and utilize this intelligence to target investigations against key individuals, such as the leaders of these units," states Moore. On March 31, 2012, the City's unit commenced and has already progressed in fighting crime.

Shortly after the execution of this unit, Moore began to address gun

crimes, adding an additional investigator.

"We have an ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms) Task Force Officer which works federal cases, but I wanted to fill the void between federal and state, so I placed an officer there to really work on state gun crimes," notes Moore.

According to Moore, this officer researches individuals' criminal history to determine if it is possible to seek out additional sentencing for the other crimes they committed.



"If you are the witness of a crime that is occurring in your community, then you are an accessory in the moral sense, because by not telling, you are allowing perpetrators to become more confident and more violent in their criminal acts."

—Rocky Mount Police Chief James Moore



"We are just trying to make sure that we get the most severe prison sentence that we can for anyone engaging in violent crimes in the City, whether state or federal," says Moore. "I really want them removed from our City and removed for a very long time."

Aggressive policing is adamant for Moore and his staff, and he wants citizens to know it. Consequently, three months after Moore took office, he put the finishing touches on a project first initiated by former Police Chief John Manley. Residents may now search for incident and arrest reports, or peruse a list of fugitives and missing persons on the department's Police 2 Citizen (P2C) website.

Launched on May 11, 2012, the new website uses technology to make searches for crime more convenient for users. "This is a great customer tool," says Moore. "Our residents can now see what is occurring in their neighborhood and throughout the City from their home or business."

A prime example of aggressive policing took place in April when, after a homicide, officers increased patrols. During that month, the department held 11 driver's license checkpoints in inner-city neighborhoods and seized more than 20 guns in two weeks. Also, federal indictments were obtained on numerous violent offenders.

Additionally, Moore has continued to increase the Police Department's fight against crime by enhancing the Bars, Taverns and Nightclubs Ordinance. The program, passed before Moore's hiring, requires bars, taverns and nightclub owners to receive an operating license annually from the Police Department. Moore has the authority to, if warranted, revoke the license. Training on the ordinance is given to owners and employees so they can understand how the ordinances work and how to recognize warning signs for problems.

Moore says that although the ordinance has been in effect for approximately one year, a person who assumed jobs as court security officer and part-time City employee was also given the enormous responsibility of managing the Bars, Taverns and Nightclubs Ordinance. Instead, Moore has assigned a full-time officer to provide oversight to this full-time position. Since the end of March, Officer Jarrod Edmonds has presented information regarding the ordinance during Nuisance Nightclub and Violence Reduction classes for club owners and their staff. He has also explained the ABC permit process to owners and employees. The ordinance seems to be accepted by owners of

clubs like Da Boat Ryde. A sign recently displayed at the club read: "We at Da Boat Ryde Have a 0 Tolerance. We will ask for the highest bond available by the magistrate."

Aside from enhancing the Bars, Taverns and Nightclubs Ordinance, Moore has added two narcotics officers to the Narcotics Division, and one DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) Task Force Agent remains. Thus, the headlines in the *Rocky Mount Telegram* of police nabbing drug dealers and traffickers and seizing thousands of dollars in cash are not a coincidence, but instead can be attributed to the steadfast efforts of the City's Police Department.

Drug seizures and other police work often bring in the question of legality for Moore, who in March requested that the City Council approve an annual contract with a Greensboro law firm. Approval was granted and officers may now seek consultation from an attorney 24-hours a day, 7 days a week prior to searches or to ask any other pertinent questions.

"It was definitely a tool needed by supervisors," says Moore. "The beauty of this service is that in 10 to 15 minutes, officers are getting a response to help them in making a decision, which in retrospect should benefit the City in the long run as far as reducing lawsuits."

While much has been implemented since Moore became the City of Rocky Mount's new Police Chief, there is much to be accomplished. The former Wilmington Deputy Police Chief acknowledges that a community with no crime is a fantasy, and the Police Department is not a cure all for some things considered an impetus for crime.

"There are certain elements in the community that I cannot change," states Moore. "Once I accept the things that I cannot change, then I try to look for some type of wisdom to show me how I can make a difference."

In the meantime, Moore plans to continue reading, learning, teaching his staff, and living by the goal that he first set for himself and for the City of Rocky Mount: to make a difference by decreasing crime and by enhancing the quality of life.

"I think every person tries to leave this world a better place than it was before they arrived."

But, before goals are realized, Moore issues a challenge to every Rocky Mount resident—work in tandem with your Police Department. "If you are the witness of a crime that is occurring in your community, then you are an accessory in the moral sense, because by not telling, you are allowing perpetrators to become more confident and more violent in their criminal acts," says Moore.

Those who deviated from the "don't snitch" phenomenon in 2011 were aids in lowering the number of violent crimes, robberies and aggravated assaults during that year. In fact, in 2011 vs. 2010, violent crimes decreased by 18.8%. There was a 29.4% reduction in robberies and a 15.3% reduction in aggravated assaults.

Some time will transpire before we see the results of Moore's initiatives, but according to our new Police Chief, with a wholehearted commitment from our community, the rewards are endless.



"We are just trying to make sure that we get the most severe prison sentence that we can for anyone engaging in violent crimes in the City, whether state or federal."

—Rocky Mount Police Chief James Moore

## City Cultivates Relationships with Community Outreach

The staff of the Rocky Mount Police Department has been busy in their community outreach efforts. According to Yvette Jones, Community Services Supervisor for the department, programs such as the Junior Police Academy, Badges for Baseball, Summer Night Lights and National Night Out have resulted in productive relationships between officers and community members.

Although the Rocky Mount Police Department has initiated many different community programs, the most notable are as follows:

**Badges for Baseball:** Sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, communication, respect and work ethics are the principles that the Lucy Ann Boddie Brewer Unit of the Boys and Girls Club and the Rocky Mount Police Department instilled in youth during their latest collaboration, Badges for Baseball.

Badges for Baseball was a concept started by former baseball player, Cal Ripkin Sr., and his son, Cal Ripkin Jr. The national concept began as a way to teach kids about making the right choices in life.

According to Brad Summerlin, Community Resource Officer with the City of Rocky Mount, he taught the 12-week course along with designated School Resource Officers.

"We taught lesson plans and the kids had workbooks that they could use as guides," says Summerlin. "We taught them healthy food choices as well, and then we took them outside to play baseball."



*Brad Summerlin talks to youth during Badges for Baseball.*



**The Junior Police Academy:** Youth between the ages of 13 to 18 who are interested in law enforcement were encouraged to participate in the 12th annual Junior Police Academy. Participants had the opportunity to learn about police procedures and the law.

Junior Police Academy participants also worked on law enforcement activities, to include setting up a mock crime scene, finding evidence during a crime scene investigation and reconstructing what they believe occurred during the investigation.

"I think this is a really good program for students who may have an interest in the area," says Jones. "It gives these youth a better view of what the job is about."



*A mock trial takes place at the Junior Police Academy.*



*(l-r) Police Chief James Moore, Senior Resident Superior*

*Court Judge Quentin Sumner, District Attorney Robert Evans and U.S. Marshal Scott Parker get ready to attend National Night Out.*

**National Night Out:** Five communities in the Rocky Mount area hosted various events for the nation's annual National Night Out, celebrated on August 7, 2012. According to Jones, National Night Out encourages various communities to host individual activities engaging citizens and law enforcement. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and residents are fighting back.

Jones says that each community had a unique idea, such as a parade, a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, an ice cream social, a watermelon night or a cook out. Each community also received a visit from the Rocky Mount Police Department who spoke on topics ranging from home security devices and drugs, to information on personal safety.

**Summer Night Lights:** Although Summer Night Lights is the brainchild of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the event also included information and DUI simulators from the Rocky Mount Police Department.

Summer Night Lights, held July 2012, was an anti-crime initiative designed to take place during peak crime hours with the intent of combatting violence during these times. (See more on Summer Night Lights, pg 11.)



*Basketball was one of the many activities taking place during Summer Night Lights.*

(Photo by Emma Tannenbaum)



## Residents delighted in City's Summer Night Lights

For 15-year-old Marquis Williams, the first Summer Night Lights event couldn't have been better. The City event was held at Meadowbrook Park, just around the corner from his family home.

"I came out to have some fun and play some hoops," said Williams. "A lot of my friends and family are out here having a good time." More than 500 residents participated in the City's summer initiative geared towards reducing crime and fostering community involvement with family-friendly activities, including arts and crafts, sports, games and music. Faye Murphy Knight said she was eager to participate as soon as she saw signs promoting the events.

"It is such a pleasure to sit in the park and feel safe without any fighting or trouble," she said. "It really is a blessing to see the community come together to support Rocky Mount." She said without the initiative, there would be more opportunity for area youth to get into trouble.

Desaon Whitaker lives near the park and said without Summer Night Lights, he would have spent the night in with his daughters, ages 4 and 6.

"I'd seen the fliers around, but I didn't think it'd be anything like this," he said. "There is a lot of crime problems around here because people don't have (anything) to do. I'm glad they are having something for the kids to do."

Whitaker smiled as his daughters enjoyed Webby's Shaved Ice while they contemplated playing on the inflatable Twister board set up by Extreme Bouncers. DJ Greg Royal provided the music at the event.

"The purpose of this program is community cohesiveness, and the more community partnerships we have, the better the program is," said Cody High, a Recreation Assistant with the City. "We could have run Summer Night Lights as a (recreation) services program, but it wouldn't have been the event it was without the support of the community."

Valerie Mercer kept watch over her nephews while helping her granddaughter glue popsicle sticks to her craft project. She praised the event.

"I think it is something good for the neighborhood and the Meadowbrook area," Mercer said. "It is good to see everyone coming out and getting involved."

## USA South Announces Partnership with City of Rocky Mount



The USA South Athletic Conference has announced a partnership with the City of Rocky Mount to host the 2013 and 2014 USA South Spring Sports Festivals. The festival features the tournaments of all six Conference spring sports.

"I am delighted that the USA South has elected to bring their spring athletic championships to Rocky Mount in 2013," said Rocky Mount Mayor David W. Combs. "Rocky Mount has been fortunate to host a number of conferences, tournaments and other events for large groups in recent years, and we have proven ourselves to the state and to the region to be a hospitable community with ample resources to accommodate their needs."

"On behalf of the Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation Department, I would like to say that I am very excited at the opportunity for the City of Rocky Mount to host the USA South Spring Championships in 2013," shared Dale Smith, Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation Director. "The Parks and Recreation department prides itself on outstanding staff and facilities. We look forward to providing the highest level of service to the Conference and its athletes."

Rocky Mount's city limits fall within Edgecombe and Nash counties. The city, named an All-America City in 1970 and 1999, is located halfway between New York and Florida directly on I-95 and US 64. Rocky Mount has played host to numerous collegiate events, as well as regional and national recreation tournaments. The city is also home to USA South member North Carolina Wesleyan College.

"We look forward to partnering with Rocky Mount as we plan for future USA South Sports Festivals," stated Rita Wiggs, USA South Commissioner. "This is a huge event for our student-athletes and coaches, and our continued challenge will be to make it a valued event in the student-athlete experience. The bar has been set high in the past six years and Rocky Mount has committed its personnel, venues and community support to ensuring that the student-athletes of the USA South will have a superior tournament experience in the years to come."

The baseball tournament will be the only competition not played within the city limits of Rocky Mount. The tournament will split time between Fleming Stadium in Wilson, N.C. and Five County Stadium, home of the current minor league (Double-A) affiliate Carolina Mudcats in Zebulon, N.C.

The softball tournament will be held at the Rocky Mount Sports Complex. This facility contains four softball fields with two 2,000 square foot concession areas with restrooms. This facility has hosted numerous national recreation softball tournaments.

The women's lacrosse tournament will be held at Rocky Mount Stadium which is within the Rocky Mount Sports Complex. The stadium is located adjacent to the softball fields and has a 5,000-seat capacity. The venue has hosted

Elizabeth City State's "Down East Viking Football Classic" for the past 14 years.

The men's golf tournament will take place at Benvenue Country Club in Rocky Mount. The 6,635-yard course is designed by Donald Ross and has a course rating of 72.0 with a slope rating of 120. The facility also contains full locker rooms for each team.

The men and women's tennis facility will be in its first year of existence once tournament play begins. The facility, located on the campus of N.C. Wesleyan College, will feature 12 lighted hard-surface courts with ample spectator seating, locker rooms and restrooms.

Specific details and game schedules for each tournament will soon be placed on the website. Please log on to [www.usasouthspringchampionships.com](http://www.usasouthspringchampionships.com).



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A Rocky Mount treasure sits just off Highway 64 and is located four miles from Interstate 95. The Rocky Mount Sports Complex has been in the City for nearly six years and has expanded tremendously. Previously serving as a municipal airport from 1931 until 1981, Joel Dunn, Sports Complex Director, says that unbeknownst to many, the decision to transform the airport grounds to a Sports Complex has had a significant impact on Rocky Mount's tourism and economy.

The 143-acre Sports Complex, completed in the fall of 2006, is equipped with six youth baseball fields, four interchangeable baseball/softball fields, one championship baseball field, eight soccer/football fields, a professional disc golf course, two outdoor basketball courts, a walking trail, sand volleyball courts, a fishing pier and a horseshoe pit. According to Dunn, there are baseball and softball tournaments for approximately 32 weekends throughout the year. The tournament and team members are introduced to Rocky Mount due to the efforts of many different organizations.

"Organizations such as Top Gun Baseball, Triple Crown Baseball, USSSA Girls' Softball, Nation's Baseball and Capital Area Soccer bring tournaments to our City," says Dunn.

Tournaments are usually bid out to these various organizations with the winners hosting the tournament, along with handling the umpires and the schedules. Although most tournaments cater to youth baseball and softball, soccer tournaments are becoming more prevalent. However, all draw teams from areas in and out of state.

"The Triple Crown Border Wars, based out of Colorado, is one of the biggest events that we have all year," exclaims Dunn. "This past year we had about 182 teams for this tournament, with 80 to 90 teams from areas like Virginia, South Carolina, New Jersey and Georgia. That event is always very successful," says Dunn.

The most recent event for the Sports Complex was the Top Gun Summer World Series. Held during the week of July 4, 2012, the baseball tournament elicited participation from 71 teams and about 3,000 visitors to the city. Parents of participants were elated at the hospitality received during their visit for the third annual series.

According to an article in the *Rocky Mount Telegram*, the hotel complex, which includes DoubleTree by Hilton, Comfort Inn, Courtyard by Marriott and Residence Inn by Marriott, organized special activities and information to assist. The athletic package consisted of coupons

and a map to more than 15 local restaurants and establishments, among other items. Dunn says that this type of marketing package is one way in which the Rocky Mount Sports Complex is unique, especially when competing with cities like Raleigh, Charlotte and Wilmington for events.

An additional distinction for the Rocky Mount Sports Complex is the fact that all facilities are in one location.

"There are so many fields that you can bring a lot of teams to one area instead of spreading them out all over town at different fields," acknowledges Dunn.

In fact, Dunn says that the City's multi-use facility may have played a role in CASL (Capital Area Soccer League) having their tournament in Rocky Mount.

"They held their tournament in Rocky Mount just because we have one spot where they can host multiple teams," says Dunn. "During that soccer tournament last year, we had 60 teams from 19 different states. We had a boys event and a girls event."

The Sports Complex's proximity to Interstate 95 also lures many organizations to the area.

"It's just more accessible for everyone and it makes travel easier," says Dunn, "especially on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday when people are trying to get here or get back to their homes."

Location is not the only reason why the Rocky Mount Sports Complex is unique. The economic impact that the complex

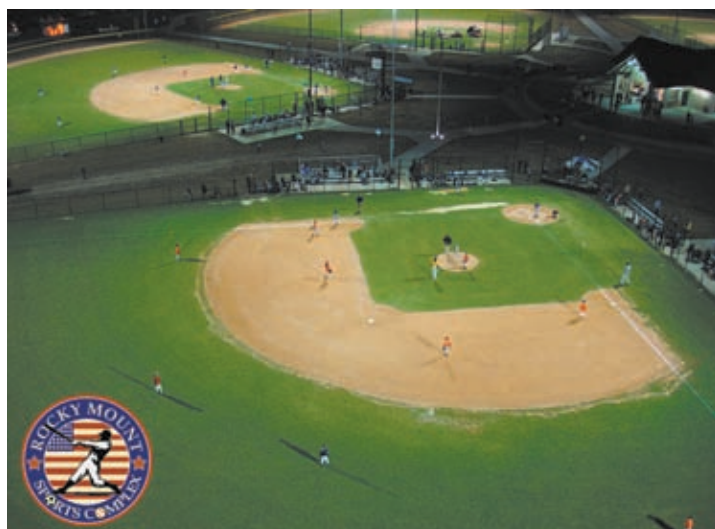
provides makes it a stand-out for our region. Visitors to the Sports Complex have ranged anywhere from 65,000 to 72,000 per year. As a result, from 2010 to 2011, for example, the total economic impact to Rocky Mount from the Sports Complex was at \$8,325,240. That number increased from 2009-2010 when the total funds estimated as a result of the Sports Complex were at \$7,436,440.

While the Sports Complex is already a treasure to Rocky Mount residents and tourists alike, Dunn says there is still more work to be done. Complex staff is in the process of building concession stands for the soccer fields which should be completed in November. Infrastructure will also be added to the Sports Complex, like lights, fencing and parking for the remaining six soccer fields, as well as upgrades to the football stadium.

To find out more information on the Rocky Mount Sports Complex or for an event schedule, log on to: [www.rockymountsportscomplex.com](http://www.rockymountsportscomplex.com).



## The Rocky Mount Sports Complex A Driving Force for the City







**Friday, October 12 & Saturday, October 13, 2012**

## An Interview with Debbie Julio, Special Events Coordinator for the City of Rocky Mount

**Tameka:** Exactly what types of food can we expect at the Eastern Carolina Barbecue (BBQ) Throw Down?

**Debbie:** I tell everybody about our old event called Pignacious that we had before the Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down. That was a whole pig cooking contest. Now we're introducing Kansas City BBQ Society who is sanctioning this event. Therefore, we will have four different categories this year, including chicken, ribs, pork and beef brisket.

**Tameka:** Who is eligible to compete in the Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down?

**Debbie:** Anybody. Most of the people who participate are professionals. They've participated before and they know what needs to be done. It's timed. The chicken has to come off at a certain time. The ribs are turned at a certain time, etc. You need to know how to cook in a contest such as this. Many restaurants know how to participate and they want to compete, and many individuals who call themselves backyard BBQ professionals will compete and they often win.

**Tameka:** What are the different categories and what will people receive as a result of winning?

**Debbie:** There's a Grand Champion category, and that means the participant has won the entire Throw Down. That prize is \$3,000. There's actually a purse of over \$17,000, and there are 58 opportunities to win. There's a reserve grand prize which is second place and it extends through 10th place overall. Then, you have in each category of chicken, ribs, pork and beef brisket, a first through 10th place in all of those categories. There's also a People's Choice Award in which attendees get to



*Kelvin Yarrell, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, gets ready to taste some great BBQ.*

*(l-r) Tameka Kenan-Norman and Debbie Julio*



taste BBQ and we pick our favorite. It is, however, just one category of pork when we do that, but it's really a great thing for this winner to know

that the public actually picked their BBQ.

This year, Smithfield® Packing Company is one of our major sponsors, and they're hosting a rib category titled the Smithfield's Rib Super Series. The category is brand new this year and it's a national contest. So, the participant that has the best ribs wins more money from Smithfield Packing Company in that category.

We have teams coming from Ohio, Florida and up and down the East Coast. They come from everywhere to receive that top honor.

**Tameka:** What are some of the unique names for the participants?

**Debbie:** Last year, for example, the winner for one contest was Grog-N-Hogs, which means beer and pig. We also have one called Pick-N-Porkers because they like to play the banjo. And, there's a lady from Virginia who calls her group Wood Chicks. There are not a lot of women who participate, but the leader of the group loves to BBQ and she actu-

ally owns a few restaurants in Virginia.

**Tameka:** Tell me about the judging.

**Debbie:** The judges are certified Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) judges, but anyone can judge. If someone would like to be trained and certified, then they can give me a call. We do not have any spots open this year for judging, but we encourage individuals to come out and volunteer. That way, they can be around the judges and perhaps they can come in next year to judge. Judges examine moisture content, taste, appearance and much more. We have over 60 judges.

**Tameka:** Where and when will the Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down be held?

**Debbie:** The event is from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 12, 2012 and continues through Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Downtown Rocky Mount right in front of the train station and near the Senior Center. We extend down Church Street with vendors and kid's activities, including entertainment from the Tams, the Fantastic Shakers and the Coconut Groove Band. It's not just the Throw Down; this is a festival.



**The City is no longer accepting participants, but if you want to know more about this year's BBQ Throw Down, log on to [www.bbqthrowdown.net](http://www.bbqthrowdown.net)**



# City Center Provides an Outlet for Seniors

**A**lex Langley is the new Director for the City of Rocky Mount's Senior Center. Although he began with the Senior Center in March 2012, he and his staff have already begun unique ideas that he hopes the seniors in the City will love.

"I want to be as innovative as I can in terms of the programming here and be an advocate for the seniors," says Langley. "I want to take the ideas of my participants and give them the programs that they want."

Langley started honing in on programming requests when a collaborative effort with the Senior Center and Nash Community College started in August. Now through December, seniors are invited to enroll in basic computer skills classes. According to Langley, seven different classes are being taught at the Senior Center. These free classes will teach participants about Microsoft Word, e-mail, the Internet and how to begin an online business.

Trips are also exciting ways for senior citizens to meet new people and to explore different parts of the state and the world. Langley says that seniors attended a mystery trip in August.

"They sign up for the trip and they don't know where they are going until they get there," says Langley. Seniors also recently traveled to the world's biggest tree house in Roseboro, N.C.

Langley notes that while all trips are fascinating, those who are already members of the Senior Center are reveling in the fact that they will soon travel to New York. On November 27, 2012 to November 30, 2012, they will experience Christmas in New York, with visits to Rockefeller Center, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, a Broadway show and a showing of the world famous Rockettes.

The excitement will continue in February when the Senior Center hosts a trip to Italy, the first in a series of international travels. February 18, 2013 to February 27, 2013, there will be a locally guided panoramic tour of Rome, a scenic journey through Tuscany, a cultural tour of Florence, sightseeing, a short lesson of the local language and much, much more. Any member of the public is invited to Italy. Find out more information by logging on to: [www.collettevacations.com/link/511557](http://www.collettevacations.com/link/511557). Register to attend by calling Julie Smith, Senior Center Supervisor, at 972-1152.

Sound like fun? Become a member of the Senior Center to experience these trips, along with many other activities, like athletic leagues, bingo, birthday celebrations, senior games and special events.

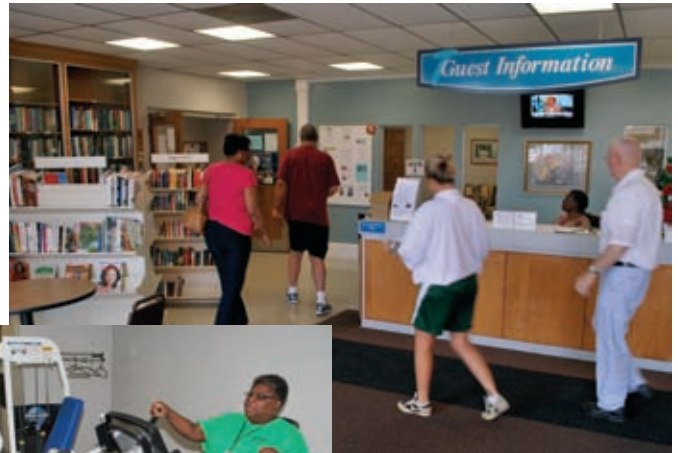
The Senior Center, located at 427 South Church Street in Rocky Mount, is also equipped with the following: swimming pool, library, craft room, meeting rooms, a gym, billiards room, fitness center, computer lab, walking track, tv/lounge, bike room, dance studio, horseshoe courts, shuffleboard courts, reception area and bocce courts.

"We want seniors to enjoy the Senior Center," notes Langley. "Here, seniors can stay active, meet new people, create new relationships and discover new places."

For more information on the Senior Center or to receive a listing of activities, call 972-1152.



Alex Langley



Seniors enjoy exercise and many other activities.



**The Rocky Mount Senior Center** invites you to take a trip with them to Italy. From February 18, 2013 to February 27, 2013, enjoy historic sites, magnificent palaces and breathtaking views. For more information, call Julie Smith at 972-1152.

## Upcoming Fall & Winter Events at the Senior Center

**NC State Fair Trip**  
Tuesday, October 16, 2012 from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Dinner Movie Theater** Friday, November 9, 2012 at the Booker T. Theater from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

**Annual Senior Christmas Tour**  
Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at Nash Community College from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.



# Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



## The City Positively Impacts Citizens by Going Green

Reduce, reuse and recycle is the mantra often used with “going green.” The City of Rocky Mount has and continues to practice the concept of “going green,” from the new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Station, to weatherization projects, the revitalization of Booker T. Washington High School and much more.



## Public Works

Jonathan Boone, Public Works Director for the City of Rocky Mount, has fully embraced the “going green” concept, a reason why the department has started three green initiatives. Most renowned is the City’s new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station and two CNG powered rear loaders (used to pick up yard waste), dubbed as cost efficient, an energy saver and environmentally friendly.

After receiving a grant from the US Department of Energy and the Carolina Blue Skies initiative, the Public Works Department was charged with investing in alternative fuel technologies. CNG is a fossil fuel substitute for gasoline, diesel or propane, and with an increased number of CNG fueling stations in the U.S., the number of CNG vehicles on the road will increase.

“CNG is a cleaner burning fuel as opposed to diesel which emits nitrous oxide and contributes to smog,” says Boone.

With the advent of the new CNG fueling station, there is the capacity to expand the City’s fleet of CNG vehicles. Currently, the new fueling station and rear loaders saves the City and taxpayers money.

“With our two rear loaders, we anticipate that we will save approximately 330 gallons of diesel per truck per month,” says Boone. “It is also less expensive, about half the cost of diesel, so we will save money and reduce emissions which will improve air quality.” The cost of the project was completed at roughly \$780,000, with the grant covering about 50 percent of the total costs.

Similarly, a grant from the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources was an incentive for Boone’s department to adopt the rollout recycling cart project. In addition to promoting recycling, the grant is intended to divert this material from the waste stream and to support industries within the state that rely on an ample supply of recyclable materials.

Only one phase of the rollout recycling cart project is completed, which includes exchanging 18 gallon red recycling bins with 90 gallon rollout carts. “This increases the storage of recyclables by five times,” says Boone.

Due to the storage increase, Public Works has converted to a bi-weekly collection schedule, and according to Boone, by having trucks service these areas only every two weeks, costs on collecting recyclables are reduced. With such tremendous cost savings the City Council has decided to proceed with phase two of the rollout recycling cart project.

Technology has also played an important role in the City’s “green” efforts. The Public Works Department is now utilizing a smart phone application

entitled “Mobile 311.” The application is hosted on a Global Positioning System (GPS) enabled smart phone and allows the Environmental Services Division to conduct a field survey to identify the locations for bulk waste items, such as washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators and furniture in advance of collections. Once a list of service locations is generated, it is given to an operator for next-day collection. With the use of mobile technology, Boone has deviated from sending big trucks out on every street daily to search for and collect bulk waste items.

“We have been able to reduce the routes from three to two,” says Boone. “So, it’s more efficient, one less truck that we have to place on the street and less fuel that we have to burn.”

Finally, the City’s Public Works Department is coordinating with the Engineering Department to “go green” on their resurfacing program. The resurfacing program, involves overlaying existing roadway surfaces with new asphalt. The two departments are now using FDR, or full depth reclamation, for resurfacing.

According to Boone, once streets need to be reconstructed, the previous process would call for a complete

demolition of the street, removal of all old material down to the sub-base, and rebuilding the street in its entirety. The demolition, transport and disposal of the material would also require the use of heavy construction equipment and dump trucks to tear apart the streets, resulting in a great deal of inconvenience for the area’s residents. With the use of FDR, material is not being removed, rebuilt and replaced, but instead it is recycled.

“We are not taking all of the material to a landfill, so it is environmentally friendly,” says Boone. “But it is also more cost effective to use that material, pulverize it, put it back down, recompact it, inject some cement to stabilize and strengthen the sub-base, and overlay with asphalt rather than rebuild the street from scratch.”

## Water Resources

Wayne Hollowell, Director of Water Resources for the City of Rocky Mount, is excited about how green the City’s wastewater treatment plant will be starting November 2012.

The wastewater treatment plant maintains a biomass of bacteria which break down the organic material in the waste stream. The treatment plant has equipment which produces 50 tons of oxygen every day. The oxygen is fed to the bacteria to activate and accelerate their performance. New technology called vacuum swing adsorption (VSA) equipment extracts oxygen from the atmosphere at a much lower cost than the current equipment.

Now, Hollowell says that the City’s new VSA Project will be less costly. With the new initiative, Hollowell’s staff can determine the quantity of oxygen demand, based upon the organic loading, and feed only what is needed.





Because it does not have to run continuously, the plant will also save on energy costs estimated at \$400,000 per year on electricity.

A grant was received from the Department of Energy (DOE) for the completion of the VSA Project. According to Hollowell, the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has a revolving loan program which will finance projects like this with a low interest loan of two to three percent, but the loan for the City's project is a no interest loan.

"We received a letter after they looked at the project, and they said it was so green, we'll let you have it at zero percent," says Hollowell. "It was heralded as one of the better green projects in the state of N.C. It's very unusual that you can make improvements and get immediate payback for it."

**Public Utilities** Rocky Mount Public Utilities is following in the footsteps of Public Works and Water Resources by adopting green efforts and saving money for customers. Through the implementation of weatherization programs such as energy audits and Energy-Share, residential and commercial customers will learn how to improve efficiency and lower the cost of their utility bill.

According to Kim Weaver, Energy Services Manager for the City of Rocky Mount, an energy audit is a service that any utility customer may use.

"The energy audit is free and is available to any Rocky Mount utility customer who has at least one utility service," says Weaver.

The residential audit entails a walk-through of the customer's property.

"We go through the house, attic space and the crawl space, and we tell them what they can do to make the house more energy efficient," notes Weaver.

With a focus on no cost or low cost initiatives, Rocky Mount Public Utilities continues efforts to save money for residents by providing an audit report and a free energy kit. According to Weaver, the energy kit consists of the following:

- Spray foam insulation should be used around sockets and pipe entrances. "Sometimes the hole in the pipe entrance is bigger than the pipe, so it is a huge space for air infiltration," says Weaver. "You spray, and it expands and fills the space."
- Compact fluorescent bulbs, equivalent to a 100-watt bulb, uses only 23 watts. The compact fluorescent bulb has ten times the life of a regular incandescent bulb.
- A low flow shower head reduces the amount of water that is dispersed from the shower.
- A filter whistle is designed to be placed on a return filter. Weaver says when your filter is plugged with dust and dirt, the filter whistles to acknowledge that it needs to be changed. Return filters should be changed at least once per month.

- A refrigerator thermometer indicates the temperature inside a refrigerator
- A paper thermostat reader is a great tool to sit on top of a thermostat to determine if the thermostat is reading properly.

Energy audits are completed upon request, and they help utility customers to reduce their energy costs.

In addition to energy audits, Weaver admires the City's Energy-Share program. Developed in 2011, Energy-Share resulted from money appropriated by the City Council for insulation retrofits and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) equipment upgrades. Simply put, insulation retrofits adapt insulation for use in an older home. As a part of Energy-Share, customers will receive load management switches for their HVAC equipment. These switches are connected to the air conditioner, heat pump and water

heater for your home. The switches are activated during the City's peak energy usage to reduce the City's electric usage as a whole.

To participate in Energy-Share, an energy audit must be performed and persons must attend an energy education class.



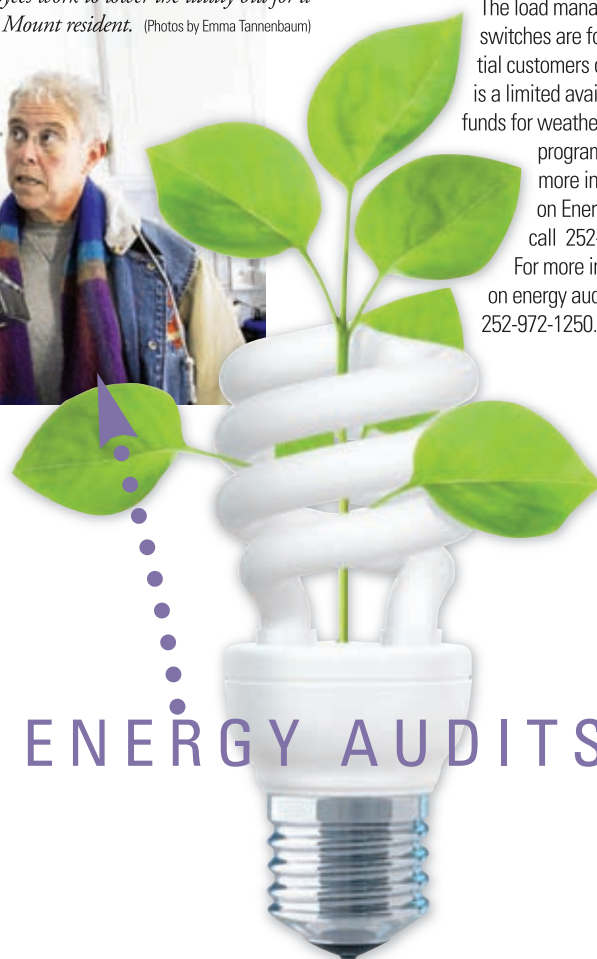
Employees work to lower the utility bill for a Rocky Mount resident. (Photos by Emma Tannenbaum)



The load management switches are for residential customers only. There is a limited availability of funds for weatherization

programs. For more information on Energy Share, call 252-972-1101.

For more information on energy audits, call 252-972-1250.



## A "Green" Community

A fix to the facilities at the former Booker T. Washington High School was also a part of the City's "going green" efforts. The high school, a landmark in the Rocky Mount community, has been owned by the City since 1970 and is home to the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) and the Parks and Recreation Department's Community Center.

The windows in the two-story classroom portion of the Booker T. Washington High School, which was built in 1924, were replaced with double hung windows to replicate those built in 1924, thanks to a grant from the DOE for energy savings.

"In doing so, we were able to get a really tight fit with the windows," says Peter Varney, Assistant City Manager for the City of Rocky Mount. "The new windows make that space much more energy efficient. There are no more drafts, and the windows can be opened for fresh air instead of running the air conditioning and the heating system."

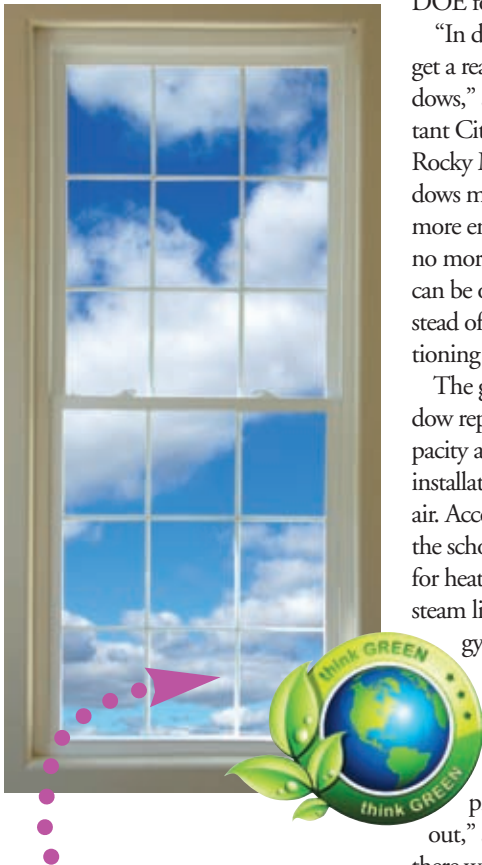
The grant also consisted of window replacement in the 800 capacity auditorium and the installation of central heating and air. According to Varney, for years the school housed a central boiler for heat and ran underground steam lines from the boiler to the gymnasium, as well as steam lines to the auditorium and two-story classroom portion of the building. "It was so old that the pipes had been rusting out," says Varney. Therefore, there were times when heat or air were not transferred properly into the buildings.

After receipt of the grant, a

new natural gas boiler was added to supply heat, and air conditioning units were installed throughout the building.

"We don't have to rely on the pipes, and now they have their own air conditioning system," says Varney. "Each room used to have one or two window units sticking out on the first and second floor. This new air conditioning system eliminates all window units so that costs and air temperatures can be controlled in the space throughout the building."

The replacement of the windows and the addition of a central air and heating unit in Booker T. Washington High School was one of the many ways in which the City has gone "green." From the CNG fueling station and the rollout cart projects, to weatherization and much, much more, the City of Rocky Mount will always adopt "green" initiatives that will benefit Rocky Mount residents.



## EFFICIENCY



## Rocky Mount Public Utilities Receives National Recognition for Reliable Electric Operations

Rocky Mount Public Utilities is one of 176 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3®) recognition from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. Brent McKinney, Manager, Electric Transmission and Distribution at City Utilities of Springfield, Mo., and Chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel, presented the designees on April 16, 2012 during the association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio.



*Richard Worsinger (center) receives the certificate for national recognition.*

## APGA Award Goes to Richard Worsinger

Richard Worsinger, Director of Public Utilities, recently received the American Public Gas Association's (APGA) Personal Achievement Award. This award is given to individuals who have made substantial contributions toward the attainment of the goals of APGA and enhanced the prestige of APGA in the nation, generally with at least three years active participation in APGA.

When receiving his award, Worsinger stated, "As I look around the room, I see many other APGA members who are as deserving of this recognition, if not more so than I am. It is an honor to receive this award, and I am truly humbled by this recognition."



## City Employees Named Hometown Heroes



(l-r) John Craft, Chairman of the Electricities Board of Directors; Richard Worsinger, Director of Public Utilities; City Councilman Andre Knight; Terry Johnson; Brad Short; City Manager Charles Penny; Mayor David Combs and Graham Edwards, Electricities CEO. (Not pictured-Brian Marshall)

Three Rocky Mount Public Utilities employees were recently recognized as Hometown Heroes by ElectriCities of North Carolina. Hometown Hero awards are presented annually to municipal employees who have made an outstanding effort to save a life in their community. Natural Gas Division employees Terry Johnson, Brian Marshall and Brad Short have been bestowed with this honor. Their story is this...

On November 14, 2011, Brian Marshall, Gas Line Supervisor; Terry Johnson, Gas Service Technician; and Brad Short, Gas Worker II were working on Vestal Road performing maintenance on a two-inch natural gas main. Marshall was operating the trencher and observed a girl run from a residence yelling that the house was on fire. Marshall immediately jumped off the trencher and ran across the street advising Johnson and Short of the situation. Marshall then ran to the back of the house, entering the residence occupied by a woman and her dog. Marshall soon observed smoke coming from the utility room, and there was a fire burning behind the clothes dryer. He exited the building, shutting off the gas at the meter.

Marshall's two co-workers both ran to their trucks and retrieved fire extinguishers. They observed smoke rising from the back of the house, so both entered the home as Marshall exited. Subsequently, the group told all occupants to evacuate the home.

After the evacuation, Johnson entered the utility room along with Short. The room was filled with smoke, and the fire was burning behind the dryer, reaching up the wall. Johnson used his fire extinguisher to extinguish the blaze. Short stayed with his co-worker to ensure his

safety and to assist, if necessary. After extinguishing the fire, the fire department was contacted. Johnson and Short soon turned off the main electrical breaker in the panel box and kept the residents out of the home until the fire department arrived. All were checked by the rescue squad for smoke inhalation at the scene and released.

This is the second time Johnson and Marshall have received this award.

The quick actions of these three gentlemen will forever be remembered by this family, definitely heroes in our minds, and the City of Rocky Mount is proud of them.

*ElectriCities provides customer service and safety training, emergency and technical assistance, communications, government affairs and legal services. Through consolidation of these services, members save their customers the expense of administering these functions locally.*

*ElectriCities also provides management services to the state's two municipal Power Agencies: North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 (NCMPA1) and North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA). Most member cities have been in the electric business for 100 years or more.*



**Rocky Mount Public  
Utilities Celebrates  
Public Power and  
Public Natural Gas  
Week Oct. 7-Oct. 13**

# City Kicks Off 26th Year of the W.A.R.M. Program

Leon Monroe always expresses sincere gratitude for the assistance that he has received from the W.A.R.M. Program (Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount), and thanks to the City, he has been able to pay his utility bills after experiencing some hard times.

Monroe, a Chicago, IL native, raised four children. In 1996, he would often travel to various places for his construction job. In addition was the daily commute from his job in Raleigh to his home in Rocky Mount. On one particular day, Monroe traveled from Raleigh to Rocky Mount to pick up his daughter from school.

"My driving back and forth became a habit," says Monroe about his daily commute. "I picked up my daughter that day and it was just too much. I ran off the highway and hit a tree."

Thankfully, Monroe's daughter survived the accident unscathed, but he is now paralyzed from the neck down. Monroe's wife died in 2010 from kidney failure and the bills piled up, but after finding out about the W.A.R.M. Program, Monroe received much needed assistance.

Someone gave me the information and I called in and got help," recalls Monroe. "The staff was swift."

City of Rocky Mount Customer Assistance Specialists Gloria Hunter and Tiffany Williams have been advocates for the City's W.A.R.M. Program for years. The two can remember assisting residents like Monroe who have fallen on hard times. Heating bills for these residents and many others can be a financial burden.

Since 1986, W.A.R.M. has provided heating bill assistance to low income senior citizens, disabled persons and those who have been recently laid off. Hunter estimates that the W.A.R.M. program helps about 300-400 people annually, and Williams is ecstatic about these results.

"Customers who receive assistance are very appreciative," says Williams. "They have tears in their eyes and give us hugs because they are so grateful. It does something to my heart that nothing else can top."

W.A.R.M. also leaves a good feeling for those who give. Rod Holloman has contributed to the W.A.R.M. Program since 2005 when he donated proceeds from the grand opening of his business, Squeaky Clean Car Wash. "I like to support local charities and Rocky Mount," he says.

Holloman was attracted to W.A.R.M. because of his experience as a partner in First Carolina Realty. "It's given me awareness of how some people struggle to pay their utility bills."

Holloman recently assisted the W.A.R.M. Program with a car wash that

was held on Tuesday, July 31, 2012. All visitors received a power car wash and all proceeds were given to W.A.R.M.

"It's a way that the community can be a contributor and get a bargain," notes Holloman. "What better way to also give back to an elderly person or an unemployed person who can't pay their utility bills."

Word Tabernacle Church is also a major contributor to W.A.R.M. Pastor James Gailliard says the church has written donations to the program into its budget for almost five years after searching for ways to help the community.

"We came looking for opportunity," says Gailliard. "We wanted to know, how can we develop partnerships and how can we minister to the community. We find and identify areas of need, and it is very difficult for us to say no when we know there's a legitimate need."

Word has provided funds to W.A.R.M. as a result of their REACH Program, or Responsive Emergency Assistance to Cooperative Households. "As we fund REACH, it will fund separate organizations or give direct support to the community," exclaims Gailliard.

However, through REACH, participants divulge information and are educated on their issue. "We want to dig deep enough to understand, where did things go wrong?" asks Gailliard. "We want to empower you to understand the

issues and address the whole issue."

Gailliard believes all types of churches have a role to play in the community, regardless of their financial abilities. "If everybody does a small part, there's so much good that can be done for people."

There are several ways you, too can help keep Rocky Mount W.A.R.M. this winter: add a specified amount to your monthly utility bill; round up your monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar, with the difference going to W.A.R.M.; or send a lump sum donation to: City of Rocky Mount W.A.R.M. Program, Utility Business Office, P.O. Box 1180, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27802. All donations go directly to those in need and are tax-deductible, and all contributions are valued, no matter how big or small.

For more information, visit [www.rockymountnc.gov/warm.html](http://www.rockymountnc.gov/warm.html). You may also call (252) 972-1358 or (252) 972-1533.



1. Leon Monroe is grateful for the assistance he has received from the W.A.R.M. Program.

2. Word Tabernacle Pastor James Gailliard consistently donates to the City's W.A.R.M. Program.

3. Rod Holloman thanks a patron of Squeaky Clean Car Wash. Holloman donated proceeds from this car wash to the W.A.R.M. Program.



# Helping Hands



Wayne Hollowell, Director of Water Resources; Vanessa McCleary, Downtown Development Manager; and Peter Varney, Assistant City Manager.

## City Assists United Way and the American Heart Association

There are numerous organizations throughout the twin counties aimed at providing much needed assistance to our residents, and the City of Rocky Mount collaborates with many to ensure our citizens' well-being. And, it's that time again to assist the United Way and the American Heart Association (AHA).

Recently, the United Way Tar River Region presented the City of Rocky Mount with a Bronze Award for its participation in the United Way Campaign. Under the leadership of Wayne Hollowell, former Employee Campaign Manager (ECM) and Director of Water Resources, the City's total contribution to the 2011 campaign was \$61,871, with per employee giving at approximately \$70. Tamika Joyner, Donor and Volunteer Relations Manager for United Way, applauds all City of Rocky Mount employees for their contributions.

"We have about 41 health and human service programs that we fund, and the City's contribution will help to sustain those programs," says Joyner.

Additionally, the City helped United Way reach its overall goal of \$1.26 million. In fact, United Way exceeded its goal by \$1,100 for the nearly six-month campaign.

Downtown Development Manager, Vanessa McCleary, will lead the 2012 United Way Campaign for the City of Rocky Mount. She has already begun efforts to raise money. Kicking off her campaign on July 16, 2012, McCleary has reached out through the City's magazine for employees and retirees.

Kenneth Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager for the City of Rocky Mount, is chairman of the Twin Counties Heart Walk Committee. He says that the committee has many ideas for the City's continued efforts to

increase fundraising and participation in the American Heart Association's (AHA) twin counties heart walk. The heart walk, scheduled to take place on October 13, 2012 at the Rocky Mount Sports Complex, will use funds to research ways that will improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20 percent while reducing deaths from cardiovascular disease and stroke by 20 percent.

"The health of Americans is at a tipping point," says Lynn Pischke, Director of Development for the Twin Counties Heart Walk. "Some experts predict that today's children are not expected to live as long as their parents—the first time ever for an entire generation's life expectancy to drop. Currently, less than one percent of the population, and no children (ages 12-19), meet the AHA criteria for ideal cardiovascular health."

The City's Twin Counties Heart Walk Committee will encourage City employees to assist the AHA in reaching its goal. With a Jeans Day Program, employees who donate \$5 per week may wear jeans for five consecutive Fridays.

The committee also organized an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast at the Applebee's, located at 1120 Wesleyan Blvd. in Rocky Mount.

The City is also encouraging employees and the public to walk in this year's heart walk event by logging on to the website: [www.twincountiesnc-heartwalk.org](http://www.twincountiesnc-heartwalk.org).

"We want to see a strong presence by the City in this year's event," says Hunter. "Our goal is to tie into the larger discussion about improving health habits. Voluntary improvements in personal health habits are a means of reducing long-term health costs."

For more information on how you can help, call 972-1332.



*Congratulations to Kevin Boulden (pictured above), a City of Rocky Mount employee. Boulden was the grand prize winner of a 2012 Honda Civic! Boulden was entered into a drawing for participating in the 2011 United Way campaign and won the ultimate prize, donated by Davenport Autopark in Rocky Mount, N.C.*

*Kudos to the City of Rocky Mount Twin Counties Heart Walk committee members: Buck Pittman, Kamela Alston, Janet Curtis, Bob League, Pam Casey and many others.*



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

M a i n t a i n s   I n t e r n a t i o n a l   A c c r e d i t a t i o n

The Rocky Mount Fire Department is often praised for saving lives. Most recently, the City Council presented the department, led by Fire Chief Trey Mayo, with a proclamation for their heroic efforts. At the beginning of the year, Rocky Mount firefighters rescued a five-year-old girl trapped inside a burning home.

Taniya Wiggins, 14, and the oldest of her five siblings, rescued the others, but fire officials arrived on time and rendered additional aid to save her little sister.

The heroism of Mayo's staff is a direct result of their diligence to make sure their job is done at a higher level, with the right staffing, the proper equipment and quality service. And, for staff members Ronnie Raper and Keith McGee, accreditation assures that these key components are met.

Ultimately, accreditation, which has been maintained by the Rocky Mount Fire Department on an international level since 2003, is fundamental to its success and to the safety of Rocky Mount citizens.

Raper, Division Chief of Life Safety and Accreditation Manager, defines accreditation simply as "a measuring and planning tool that helps us to measure how we perform among several different categories, two of which are planning and training."

Accreditation is based on a continuous improvement model developed by the International City-County Managers Association (ICMA) and the Fire Chiefs Association. The group assembled to outline how the ideal fire department should function, what they should monitor, measure and track, specifics on response time information, and the types of resources and equipment essential to provide the best services for their specific community.

Improvement has been pivotal for the staff of the Rocky Mount Fire Department, which is why they constantly work with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) on the guidelines to receive and maintain accreditation.

First, the fire department is assigned a team of approximately four assessors. Assessors review all of the department's documents, including a standards of cover document, which Keith McGee, Operations Division

Chief, says indicates that staff has evaluated and understands the risks in the community.

According to Raper, the department has enhanced its capabilities and improved in many areas as a result of the accreditation process. Significant improvements have been realized in the department's apparatus and equipment. One example shows in the number of thermal imaging cameras available on apparatus today.

"The thermal imaging camera allows for some visibility inside a structure when there is no visibility due to smoke," notes McGee. "With thermal imaging, we have the visibility to help identify victims that we may otherwise miss."

The department did not have a thermal imaging camera ten years ago, before they were accredited.

Raper says, "We started with limited access to cameras on three units around 2003 and 2004, and now we have this capability on all seven engines and one aerial."

The CFAI also requests continual planning. Currently, the Rocky Mount Fire Department maintains a strategic plan.

"Historically, the fire service is a reactive service, but what is not reactive

are our preparation efforts," says Raper. "We try to be prepared for anything that we can predict as much as possible."

Better equipment and a review of documents are just a few of the many guidelines that must be followed to receive and maintain accreditation, but once everything is done as suggested by the assessors, the department is recommended for approval by the peer team, and the CFAI votes for approval.

Currently, there are 30,000 fire departments in the United States, but accreditation of these departments is few and far between. The City of Rocky Mount Fire Department is one of only 13 accredited fire departments in the state of North Carolina, and there are only 162 accredited fire departments in the world. While there are many who believe that accreditation is not important, McGee wholeheartedly disagrees.

"We have to provide good quality service and be good stewards of the community funds that they trust us with," states McGee.

Each accredited fire department must go through a reaccreditation process every five years. The Rocky Mount Fire Department is up for reaccreditation in 2013, but they are confident in their progress.

"I can't even really tell you how much more of a professional organization we are because of accreditation," says Raper. "We are more in depth with the things that we cover, and we are always adapting, always adjusting, always improving."



*Ronnie Raper*



## Bold, Transformational Vision to become Game Changer for Rocky Mount



Charles Penny

Bold; transformational; game changer. These are the words that most appropriately describe the vision set forth for Rocky Mount by the Mayor and City Council. This vision is bold and transformational for our community and is aimed at increasing the City's tax base, creating a new economy, enticing entrepreneurs, and changing the trajectory, dynamics and conversations in our community.

At their retreat, the Mayor and City Council embraced the concept of "community economic development." For years, the City has operated a community development program; however, many view community development as programs for the poor. In November, Mac Holiday, the keynote speaker for the kickoff of the visioning and strategic planning process, stated, "Community development is economic development." The impact of the program reaches more than the families receiving the assistance; it provides jobs and uses goods, products and services purchased in the community.

Community economic development more effectively describes the effort in our city. It is defined as a field of study that actively elicits community involvement when working with government, non-profits and the private sectors to build strong communities, industries and markets. It is a multifaceted, comprehensive approach to community change.

To move our city and region forward, we must all embrace the concept of community economic development. It will require an investment in housing, amenities and building the city from the inside. We must build on the strong foundations which currently exist in our city, and it will take partnerships with City government, non-profits and the private sector to reuse, rehabilitate and revitalize our city and region.

We must also be bold and we must develop a vibrant city center. The City has already started and the effort is well on the way, but it will take the work of many in the private sector to bring the vision to life.

Ideally, we must change the game to achieve this vision, and the entire city and region will reap the benefits. Since the 1940's, there have been discussions of building a Civic Center which would be transformational for our region.

The Rocky Mount City Council has authorized a market/feasibility study for an event center. The facility would be flexible enough for distinct offerings, such as basketball, indoor soccer, tradeshow, conferences and other events attractive to our citizens. The facility would create a destination location for Downtown. Although it has not been designed, earlier proponents for the center stressed if Rocky Mount is to be a leader in eastern N.C., this type of facility is a must. An event center would encourage investment and reuse of properties in the city center. It would also align with the City Council's goals of taking advantage of our location on US 64 and I-95.

I am excited about the City Council's vision. Please remember, "You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first." In order to continue to be competitive, we must be bold, transformational and change the game.



## Provides Opportunity for Eastern North Carolina

In late June, PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. announced a \$1 million initiative in Eastern Carolina to boost economic development and early childhood education, and to celebrate the region's history. PNC awarded grants to Nash Community College, Edgecombe Community College and Turning Point Workforce Development board for training programs that offer unemployed workers in the area an opportunity to develop career readiness and workplace skills most needed by employers in the region. The company awarded a grant to The Down East Partner-



ship for Children to improve its public park and playground with an outdoor learning environment.

PNC has also provided funds to the City of Rocky Mount for a market feasibility study to determine if a Downtown event center could be an economic engine for the area.

"I think a feasibility study for a Downtown event center is really important, and I'll use our City Manager's term as a game changer," says Mayor David Combs. The event center will just give us another option as far as bringing traffic to Downtown Rocky Mount, and also hopefully increasing retail development in the Downtown area," notes Combs. "Hopefully, this will be a way to spur growth in the central City area and bring it back to life."

In addition to a market feasibility study, PNC is working with the City of Rocky Mount to establish the PNC Legacy Project, an exhibit to honor, preserve and document the history of the predecessor banks and the region. The exhibit is expected to go on display early next year at the Imperial Centre.

"Rocky Mount has a long history of banking from the late 1890s, especially with the banks that formed together to eventually become Centura, then RBC and now PNC," states Combs. "That legacy and that history are important to us as a community to understand, because we

—story continues on next page

—story continued

have families that have grown up with their fathers and grandfathers having worked with the bank. I think it's important to remember that history and what it means to this community."

Paula Fryland, PNC's Regional President for Eastern Carolinas, is ecstatic about the many opportunities that are possible through collaboration with various community partners in Eastern N.C. She also says that grants are given based on conversations with community leaders and a complete understanding of what is most effective for their area.

"Since we learned that we were acquiring RBC Bank in the Carolinas, we have been meeting with many community leaders in Rocky Mount, really listening to them to understand what's important and how we could support," says Fryland. "And these are just our initial investments here – we look forward to continuing to work with community leaders to understand priorities, and working together to make a difference."

Combs realizes that PNC's investments and commitment to the community can indeed be a game changer for Downtown Rocky Mount, an area that has endless possibilities.

"There's a lot of value in our Downtown area, but it has deteriorated, and we have to bring it back," admits Combs. "We have to make not only a public investment, but also private investment dollars will hopefully follow in terms of what we're doing. The feasibility study gives us the ability to say, 'will it work in downtown Rocky Mount?' If it works, then it makes the case for the funding of an event center."



## "New Name, New Image"

### City Deems Success for New Raleigh Boulevard

Dr. Thomas L. Walker is proud of his community. Growing up in Rocky Mount before he was called to the helm of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Walker remembers when his mother worked along Raleigh Road for a mere \$12.50 weekly salary. Walker can also recall with nostalgia days long gone, when members held their church and city in high acclaim. But, no matter how much they admired their surroundings, there was still room for improvement that would cause a positive jolt in the economy for Rocky Mount and most immediately for Raleigh Road, George Street and Raleigh Street.

Walker has also played a vital role in working on the revitalization of what is now East and West Raleigh Boulevard. The 3.5 mile long corridor was officially renamed East and West Raleigh Boulevard on July 1, 2012, and Walker, along with many other business and home owners, have gained an affinity for the area. City Council member Lois Watkins has, and that's why she and many other City leaders, City staff, residents, developers and property owners engaged in a

Raleigh Road Raleigh Street Land Use Plan. During this time, discussions were held to assist in enhancing Raleigh Boulevard. During the planning process, a few objectives were included, such as the identification of potential pockets for new development and redevelopment along Raleigh Boulevard., and to encourage appropriate land development along the corridor.

"We do want to encourage new and redeveloped projects along the corridor. We want to create walkable communities, meaning neighborhoods where citizens can live and shop and not have to leave to find quality goods and services, a place with mixed used development that spurs enterprise that compliments the corridor," says Watkins. "Raleigh Road corridor is just blocks away from the Downtown Streetscape and Douglas Block project. It is an ideal corridor for redevelopment."

A focus on East and West Raleigh Boulevard is what is taking place currently, as stores like Family Dollar and Dollar General have prospered. In fact, according

to Peter Varney, Assistant City Manager for the City of Rocky Mount, one new feature for visitors will be an improved Family Dollar, to be located across from the Weeks Armstrong Homes. A Family Dollar is currently located on the site, but according to Varney, a new version of the store will be built next to it, with additional space and products to offer.

Alan Matthews, Director of Economic Development for the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the City of Rocky Mount, is working on strengthening the area and says that the possible revitalization of the former Edgemont Shopping Center and the new Crossing at 64 Development resulting from the work of the Rocky Mount Edgemont Community Development Corporation (RMECDC) will provide jobs, increase the tax base and bring additional revenue to the city.

Joyce Dickens, President and CEO of RMECDC, is delighted about the Crossing at 64 site, located at the intersection of East Raleigh Boulevard and Meadowbrook Road. A Bojangles re-

cently opened there on August 7, 2012, and Eagles Enterprises has agreed to develop Eagles Convenient Plaza on the site, which will include a convenience store with a gas station and a car wash, a Dairy Queen and a Subway. Dickens is excited about the many possibilities along Raleigh Boulevard.

"We need the citizens of the twin county area to support the businesses that have located and will locate within the Douglas Block and Crossing at 64 developments," says Dickens. "We also need the support of citizens and the corporate community to support the RMECDC in our efforts to bring economic development activities to the twin counties. We must all work together to rebuild the area's economy."

Watkins agrees. "In the Little Raleigh community, we have some businesses that compliment the neighborhood, but I would like to see even more businesses developed," notes Watkins.

There is much work to be done, but much has been accomplished along the new East and West Raleigh Boulevard.

"We have what I can best describe now as momentum," says Matthews.



Lois Watkins





# A Conversation with Lewis Musser, a Resident of the Douglas Block

Meet Lewis Musser, affectionately referred to as Lew by his family and friends. During a conversation with Musser, one can learn many facts about various parts of the world, including some of the smallest towns. Musser attributes his knowledge to his many experiences.

Musser once lived in a restored Pontiac dealership in Wilmington, N.C. He also resided for some time in Wrightsville Beach, N.C. where his dad was the pastor of a Methodist Church. With training from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting, Musser's career also led him to New York City where he worked for ABC News.

Musser's resume spans experience in movies, television and theater. The current host of Tri-County Live on WNCN TV, he has made appearances in movies like "Ghost" and "Exorcist III" and on television shows such as "Law & Order," "Dawson's Creek" and "As the World Turns."

Musser currently travels to Wilmington, N.C. on most weekends to work as a tour guide for the Hollywood Location Walk, showing people from all over the world the many locations where their favorite television show was filmed.

Although Musser, a Rocky Mount native, left the area in 1965 and returned in February 2012, Musser says that this is still "his Rocky Mount."

"In spite of whatever, you can go home again," says Musser. "That's my feeling about Rocky Mount, that I am back home. I was always connected to Rocky Mount in my mind, no matter where I was."

Rocky Mount was always in Musser's mind because he can remember the vitality of an area that he too would like to restore.

"I remember when Downtown was like a shopping mecca," states Musser.

Musser remembers when the Belk-Tyler store was located Downtown, as well as W.C. Reid Music Co., a music store which sold instruments, drums, guitars and much more. Musser also refers to the Downtown of the 1960s as a fashion hub, home to several men's and women's clothing stores.

Regardless, Musser believes that Rocky Mount can once again grow to be as good or better than it once was. He says that is evident in the recent events

taking place in Downtown, such as the Harambee Festival and the naming of Thelonious Monk Plaza. Musser was seen walking the streets of Downtown during that weekend and admiring the new historic marker which adorns the Douglas Block.

"As a Monk fan, I was proud and privileged to be there," says Musser. "He played some of the best jazz music. I think every jazz artist in the whole world admires that man. I really don't think that he can be duplicated."

What's most admiring though is that Musser has heard that Thelonious Monk always called Rocky Mount home.

"He always said his whole life, 'I'm from Rocky Mount,'" notes Musser.

Musser was also glad to return to his roots, not just because of Rocky Mount's historic past and the potential for a thriving Downtown, but because of the beautiful, somewhat hidden treasure that sits above the Burnette Building, adjacent to the Booker T. Theatre: Musser's beautiful apartment in the Douglas Block.

Musser is thrilled by the placement of heart pine flooring

in his new apartment and by the renovations that kept some history intact. For instance, the logos of former businesses in the Douglas Block are now in the outer hallways of the new apartments and on some of the windows.

"It's the old tradition preserved, but it's nice," acknowledges Musser.

"There are plaster walls and heavy gauge bathtubs, porcelain. I couldn't be more pleased to be here."

Although these new lofts are filled, Musser encourages all Rocky Mount residents to visit Downtown Rocky Mount.

"Come Downtown and frequent the businesses that are down here," notes Musser. "Take a stroll down these beautiful new pedestrian sidewalks and check out the stores in the Douglas Block for great antiques. The railroad station is also really nice, and I would recommend that everybody visit the Maria V. Howard Arts Center to see great artwork and a world class theatre."

Much has been completed and there is much desired in Downtown Rocky Mount, but in the meantime, Musser is enjoying his new apartment in the City and the difference that he can make in his hometown.

"If you can devote part of your life to something more than just yourself and be a part of something that you can help sustain and grow, it gives you an added dimension," says Musser, "because you are trying to make something better for your community."



*Musser poses with business owners located on the Douglas Block.*

# Then... And Now...

## Gradual Progress Seen in Downtown Rocky Mount

For residents new to Rocky Mount, and even for those who have lived here for generations, the condition of our Downtown just a few years ago is hard to fathom. In passing, you may have seen the faded buildings, but once you ventured inside, the hope of rebuilding an area that was once so rich in history didn't seem likely.

Vanessa McCleary, Downtown Development Manager for the City of Rocky Mount, can distinctly recall the trees that invaded the buildings in the Douglas Block, once booming with business for African Americans in the mid-1900's. The Booker T. Theatre, which once provided endless entertainment, reeked with animal carcasses and trash. In fact, it took the efforts of a HazMat team to handle the waste and other elements discovered.

Fast forward to present day and you can see the remarkable accomplishments that have been made with the Downtown Streetscape Project, and primarily, the Douglas Block. Some describe the renovations as "nice," but McCleary, the Rocky Mount/Edgecombe Community Development Corporation (RMECDC), and other residents who have worked tirelessly to reclaim their Downtown, say the full appreciation of the Douglas Block can not be realized unless you really saw it previously, or unless you understand how the restoration of one block has the potential to have positive results for an entire community.

Joyce M. Dickens, Executive Director for the RMECDC, is happy to see renovations taking place as well as the new Thelonious Monk Plaza. "It's been decades of work, and it's great to see work that you've been trying to do for years become real," says Dickens. "So I encourage my fellow Rocky Mount citizens, Edgecombe and Nash County citizens to support; support the Douglas Block; support Downtown; support the Crossing at 64; support all of the ventures that we are trying to do to uplift this community."

The Douglas Block, which sits in Downtown Rocky Mount, is comprised of six different buildings, to include the Booker T. Theatre, Manhattan, Burnette, Stokes, Douglas and Thorpe buildings. The buildings, which stood vacant after all renovations, are now filled to capacity with tenants who receive consistent business.



The law firm, Lawrence Best & Associates, was the first new tenant who decided to venture into Downtown. Ironically, these "pioneers" now occupy a space that was once owned by one of the partner's former dentists who operated there in 1957.

Attorney Natarlin R. Best, a partner in the firm, told the Rocky Mount Telegram that she was happy to set the precedent for businesses starting in the Douglas Block or relocating there.

"I was very interested in being part of the Douglas Block (project) because of the hopes of revitalizing the Downtown area," stated Best. "To be a part of a city in Eastern North Carolina that is being revitalized is really encouraging."

Best and her partners led the way for other businesses that are now located in the Downtown area, all of which are prominent. Wee Care Pediatrics, for example, is the only private practice physician on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount.

"That was a big thing," says McCleary. "She filled a need. A lot of her patients ride the bus or have transportation issues, so having someone who is closer to them was important."

Subway provides healthy food choices for this area of Rocky Mount, which is considered a food desert. Plus, Designs by Felicia and Nancy's Creations are beauty salons serving different clientele, but serving the needs of the community. According to McCleary, Nancy's Creations has become such a viable option, that clients come from Raleigh, N.C. and Richmond, Va. for services. Additionally, Designs by Felicia is not solely dedicated to beauty needs, but unique wreaths are also provided there.

The Booker T. Theatre, which is a staple for the Douglas Block, has already been the space used for events such as the recent Rockin' Classic Auto Expo Block Party, the Harambee Festival, the City's Employee Recognition Banquet, and dinner and a movie for members of the Senior Center, just to name a few. The public is invited to rent this community space for parties, meetings, weddings, receptions and more.





The Douglas Block is also home to unique dress shops, like La Empress. "When you are looking for something different to wear, they are great places to go," says McCleary. "Not only can you look at what they have in the shop, but you can tell them what you are looking for, and they will go shopping for you."

Two businesses are also preparing for their grand openings: Brinkley Appliances and Prime Smokehouse. The owner of Brinkley Appliances previously worked for the Weavers who once owned an appliance store in the Douglas Block.

"To have her (the owner of Brinkley Appliances) open up her own business and for that legacy to continue celebrates history and community," states McCleary.

Additionally, we can not forget the newly instituted Thelonious Monk Plaza, named after our native son and jazz great, Thelonious Monk. And, there are eight apartments in the Douglas Block, all of which are occupied by working professionals.

But for McCleary, just getting tenants into the Douglas Block was not as important as making sure that the location was best for their needs, and that they were prepared for owning their own business.

The owner of Cool Geeks, a computer service and repair business in the Douglas Block, boasted of how McCleary assisted him with his business plan and showed him, step by step, what to do to start a sustainable business.

"Merland Wright and I have helped different businesses by meeting their needs," says McCleary. "We helped a few get financing. It just depends on what their needs are."

McCleary acknowledges that the businesses in the Douglas Block had to have their own funds because there were no grants for start-up assistance.

"The only grants that we received were for the buildings, to repair the space," says McCleary.

Although funding may be an issue for most, today's new business owners are retrieving loans and finding ways to fund their innovative, new ventures, which McCleary says can benefit Downtown and the entire City of Rocky Mount.

"This project was not only about renovating buildings and commemorating history. It was also about economic development," notes McCleary.

According to McCleary, a way out of our economic crisis is to create small businesses.

McCleary states, "For this community, we need to really look at doing business with each other and within the community so that we can grow. If we can put somebody in business and we patronize that business, they have money; they hire employees and those employees have money. Then, those employees can buy things at other places in our community."

The Douglas Block is doing well and is generating income that can be spent in other parts of the community, says McCleary. She also hopes that the City's other goals for Downtown Rocky Mount will spur additional economic growth. In addition to retail, McCleary is working on getting housing for the Downtown area, which would also mean more investment and retail spending in our City.

"I am already working on getting multiple units. I am looking at the old Carleton House, because I would like to have apartments there and convert the motel into one-bedroom units," says McCleary. "I have a couple of larger buildings Downtown where I would like to find a developer to help us get some two-bedroom apartments. I think people like to know that they have neighbors."

While the focus has primarily been the historic Douglas Block in this first phase of renovation for Downtown Rocky Mount, many citizens marveled at the new look of Main Street, thanks to the Downtown Streetscape Project. You can now see some of the results from the streetscape, such as street trees and widened sidewalks. Once the streetscape project is complete, all of the existing infrastructure Downtown will be impacted.

There is much to do in all of Downtown Rocky Mount, but much has been accomplished within the past few years.

"I just feel blessed to be a part of it," says McCleary. "Some of it I am involved in, and some of it just happens. I just see it as a part of God's plan."

# Upcoming Events for 2012 and 2013

## Rocky Mount Fire Department Puppets and Sparky

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 4:30pm – 5:10pm

**Location:** Braswell Memorial Library/Warner Room, 727 N. Grace Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** The Rocky Mount Fire Department and Sparky the Fire Dog will present a puppet program on fire safety. This is a great opportunity to educate children and adults about fire safety procedures, and demonstrate how to protect everyone from fire dangers. Join us for "IT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK! PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM FIRE!"

**Price:** Free

**Website:** braswell-library.org

**Contact Information:** Linda Bunch, 252-442-1951, lbunch@braswell-library.org



## Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down & Festival

**Date & Time:** Friday, October 12, 2012, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 10:00am – 6:00pm

**Location:** Downtown Rocky Mount near the Train Station, Hammond St. & Church St., Rocky Mount, NC

**Event Description:** The Eastern Carolina BBQ Throw Down is a festival you do not want to miss! There, you will find great barbecue, great music and plenty of activities for the entire family. Kick up your heels Friday night at the Kick-Off Party. There will be great entertainment with plenty of food and beverages including a beer garden. Continue the celebration into Saturday with a national barbecue competition, more great entertainment, lots of vendors and family activities.

**Price:** Free

**Website:** rockymountnc.gov

**Contact Information:** Debbie Julio, 252-972-1151, events@rockymountnc.gov

## Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week

**Date & Time:** Friday, October 12, 2012, 5:00 pm- 9 pm

**Location:** Train Station

**Event Description:** Safety demonstrations, kid's events, energy conservation info. and more. This event will be held in conjunction with the BBQ Throw Down

**Price:** Free

**Website:** utilities.rockymountnc.gov

**Contact Information:** KimWeaver, 972-1274, kim.weaver@rockymountnc.gov



## 1964 The Tribute

**Date & Time:** Friday, October 12, 2012, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Widely agreed upon as the definitive Beatles show, "1964" returns to the Dunn and promises to be another radiant crowd pleaser! Capturing an era of rock history that will live forever, "1964" astonishingly recreates an early 60's live Beatles concert, with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles and onstage banter. Come see what audiences for 30 years have come to expect – the Beatles tribute by which all others are measured.

**Price:** \$20

**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/

**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu



## The Masquerade Ball

**Date & Time:** Saturday, October 20, 2012 7:00pm to 12:00am

**Location:** The Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** An annual gala to celebrate the arts in our community. Event includes dinner, auctions, art and dancing to the live music of North Tower.

**Age restrictions:** Adult

**Price:** \$50/person

**Website:** arts.imperialcentre.org/

**Contact Information:** Maureen Daly, 252-972-1441, maureen.daly@rockymountnc.gov



## The Mousetrap, by Agatha Christie

**Date & Time:** November 9, 10, 16, 17 @ 7:30pm; Nov 18 @ 2:00pm

**Location:**

The Theatre at the Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** Strangers, trapped in a boarding house during a fierce snowstorm, find themselves confronted with the fact that one of them is a murderer. Who is it? You'll be guessing and on the edge of your seats until the final moments.

**Price:** \$6-\$10

## Website:

arts.imperialcentre.org/performingarts.html

## Contact Information:

Adrienne Lynch (box office), 252-972-1266, adrienne.lynch@rockymountnc.gov



## Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats

**Date & Time:** Friday, November 9, 2012, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Be prepared for a unique show that will dazzle and dazzle—a glittering, glowing, sparkling display of award winning acrobatics, ancient and contemporary music, traditional dance, spectacular costumes and theatrical techniques. Built by the Chang family from a small group to a world renowned production troupe, the Golden Dragons are America's foremost Chinese acrobatic company.

**Price:** \$15

**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/

**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu

## America Recycles Day

**Date & Time:** Saturday, November 10, 2012, 10:00am – 2:00pm

**Location:** Golden East Crossing Mall Parking Lot (near the entrances to Sears & JC Penney), 1100 N. Wesleyan Boulevard, Rocky Mount, NC

**Event Description:** America Recycles Day provides a FREE, convenient way for you to dispose of confidential documents/paper (no businesses please), old electronics, unwanted / unused prescription drugs and gently used clothes.

**Price:** Free

**Website:** http://www.rockymountnc.gov/kab/

**Contact Information:** Cornelia McGee-Anthony, 252-467-4960, Cornelia.McGee-Anthony@rockymountnc.gov



## A Holly Day Celebration

**Date & Time:** Saturday, December 1, 2012, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Ronnie Ezzell and Southern Comfort present A Holly Day Celebration.

**Price:** \$15

**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/

**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu

## 57th annual Rocky Mount Christmas Parade

**Date & Time:** Sunday, December 2, 2012, 3:00pm

## Location:

Downtown Rocky Mount, Main Street & Nash Street, Rocky Mount, NC

**Event Description:** Toys For Tots is this year's parade theme. The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve will be collecting toys at the parade for Toys For Tots. Bring the family out for this Christmas tradition to watch the parade, which includes floats, bands and of course, Santa Clause! (Note: U.S. Marine Corps will be located at the corner of City Hall collecting toys - corner of Nash Street & Church Street.)

**Price:** Free

**Website:** rockymountnc.gov

**Contact Information:** Debbie Julio, 252-972-1159, events@rockymountnc.gov



(Photo by Emma Jentzenbaum)

## The 44th Annual Christmas Chorus

**Date & Time:** Dec 7, 8 @ 7:30p; Dec 9 @ 2:00pm

**Location:** The Theatre at the Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** Rocky Mount's traditional opening of the Christmas season—revel in the music of the season, sung by a community chorus of 50+ voices!

**Price:** \$8 per person

## Website:

arts.imperialcentre.org/performingarts.html

**Contact Information:** Adrienne Lynch (box office), 972-1266, adrienne.lynch@rockymountnc.gov





### Auditions for "Peter Pan," based on the play by Sir James Barrie

**Date & Time:** Weds & Thurs, December 12 & 13, 2012, 7:00 pm  
**Location:** The Theatre at the Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** Auditions for the classic musical "Peter Pan"  
**Age restrictions:** All ages welcomed and encouraged!  
**Price:** Free  
**Website:**

arts.imperialcentre.org/performingarts.htm  
**Contact Information:** David Nields, 252-972-1156, david.nields@rockymountnc.gov

### Bill Leslie's Christmas in Carolina

**Date & Time:** Friday, December 14, 2012, 7:30pm – 9:30pm  
**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Easily recognized for his popular role as WRAL-TV news anchor, Bill Leslie is also a brilliant, award winning musician. Aptly described as "one of the greats in modern Celtic music," Bill's Yuletide fare includes "Christmas in Carolina" (named Best Holiday Album of 2005) and "A Midnight Clear—Christmas in Mitford." The latter is among the four number one albums to Bill's credit!

**Price:** \$15  
**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/  
**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu



guys are original members, having grown up together in Chapel Hill. While other bands have focused on being major recording entities, their focus has been longevity, consistency and talent, having worked with such giants as Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin and The Temptations.

**Price:** \$15  
**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/  
**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu



### Spring Exhibition Reception

**Date & Time:** Sunday, February 3, 2013  
 2:00pm–4:00pm

**Location:** The Galleries at the Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** A free, public reception to open new exhibits in the galleries of the arts center.

**Price:** Free  
**Website:** arts.imperialcentre.org/  
**Contact Information:** Catherine Lloyd, 252-972-1175, catherine.lloyd@rockymountnc.gov

### Popovich Comedy Pet Theater

**Date & Time:** Saturday, February 23, 2013, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Talented man. Talented animals. Put 'em together and you have a circus atmosphere consisting of world famous pet trainer, Gregory Popovich, and his assorted critters demonstrating their amazing techniques. Once strays, all these pets (including 15 cats and 10 dogs) have been rescued from animal shelters. Now they're trained to juggle, balance, do stunts, skits and make you laugh. It's a flash of great family fun—now playing at the Dunn.

**Price:** \$15  
**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/  
**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu



**Event Description:** The classic musical about Pan, Wendy and Hook—"If growing up means it would be beneath my dignity to climb a tree, I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up. Not me." You know where this is: second star to the right and straight on till morning.

**Price:** \$6-\$10  
**Website:** http://arts.imperialcentre.org/performingarts.htm  
**Contact Information:** Adrienne Lynch (box office), 252-972-1266, adrienne.lynch@rockymountnc.gov



### Auditions for "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani

**Date & Time:** Wednesday and Thursday, March 13, 14, 7:00pm

**Location:** The Theatre at the Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** Auditions for a beautiful play exploring relationships and discovery.

**Price:** Free  
**Website:**

arts.imperialcentre.org/performingarts.htm  
**Contact Information:** David Nields, 252-972-1156, david.nields@rockymountnc.gov



### Dr. Ralph Stanley & his Clinch Mountain Boys

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 1, 2013, 7:30pm – 9:30pm EST

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** A shining star and a fitting theme for the Dunn in a season offering a legendary Bluegrass icon—Dr. Ralph Stanley. He is indeed a star that shines above them all, having emerged over the last six decades as one of the most influential artists of all time. Few performers have his accolades, including international Bluegrass Music Hall of Honor inductee, Grand Ole Opry inductee and Grammy Award recipient. Showing no signs of slowing, Dr. Stanley and his Clinch Mountain Boys tour 100+ dates annually.

**Price:** \$25  
**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/  
**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu

### The Alley Cats



**Date & Time:** Friday, April 19, 2013, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Spontaneity. Humor. Audience interaction. It's what this acapella ensemble does best as they spin the greatest songs of the 50's and 60's. Jay Leno calls them "talented, funny and a must-see." About as American as baseball and apple pie, these dudes are delivering one of our nation's own musical artforms. Doo Wop was never this fun.

**Price:** \$15  
**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/  
**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu



### Winter Wonderland

**Date & Time:** Sunday, December 16, 1:00pm – 5:00pm

**Location:** The Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences

**Event Description:** Celebrate the winter season with all the trimmings—caroling, letter writing to Santa, creative activities and snow—inside!

Join us for an afternoon of fun and celebration—perfect for the entire family!

**Age restrictions:** Great for the whole family!  
**Price:** Free

**Website:** arts.imperialcentre.org/  
**Contact Information:** Maureen Daly, 252-972-1441, maureen.daly@rockymountnc.gov



### Good Vibrations — The Beach Boys Tribute

**Date & Time:** Friday, February 8, 2013, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** Glowing sun, glimmering sand, sparkling waves. You'll declare you're at the beach as you soak in the faithful renditions of classic hits like "California Girls," "Help Me Rhonda," and "Surfin' USA." A salute to one of America's shining stars—The Beach Boys.

**Price:** \$20  
**Website:** www.ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/  
**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu

### Liquid Pleasure

**Date & Time:** Friday, January 25, 2013, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** As the South's premier show and dance band, this bunch has been entertaining for almost 30 years. Three of the six



### "Peter Pan," based on the play by Sir James Barrie

**Date & Time:** Fridays & Saturdays, March 1, 2, 8 & 9 @ 7:30pm; Sundays, March 3 & 10 @ 2:00pm

**Location:** The Theatre at the Imperial Centre



### "Almost, Maine" by John Ciarani

**Date & Time:** Friday and Saturday, April 26, 27, May 3, 4 @ 7:30pm; Sunday, May 5 @ 2:00pm

**Location:** The Theatre at the Imperial Centre  
**Event Description:** This sweet and beautiful play explores love, loss and discovery in the lives of the quirky, yet very recognizable, inhabitants of the mythical town of Almost, Maine. Look for the Northern Lights.

**Age restrictions:** rated PG

**Price:** \$6-\$10

**Website:**

arts.imperialcentre.org/performingarts.htm

**Contact Information:** Adrienne Lynch (box office), 252-972-1266, adrienne.lynch@rockymountnc.gov

### Summer Exhibition Reception

**Date & Time:** Sunday, June 2, 2013 2:00pm-4:00pm

**Location:** The Galleries at the Imperial Centre

**Event Description:** A free, public reception to open new exhibits in the Galleries of the Arts Center.

**Price:** Free

**Website:** arts.imperialcentre.org/

**Contact Information:** Catherine Lloyd, 252-972-1175, catherine.lloyd@rockymountnc.gov



### Lawn Chair Theater

**Date & Time:** June 7 & June 21 6:00pm  
 July 5 & July 19 6:00pm  
 August 2 & 16 6:00pm  
 Movie titles to be announced!

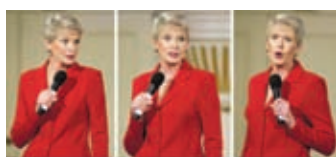
**Location:**

The Imperial Centre for the Arts & Sciences

**Event Description:** Free family movies on the lawn at the Imperial Centre

**Price:** Free

**Website:** imperialcentre.org/



### Jeanne Robertson

**Date & Time:** Friday, May 10, 2013, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

**Location:** Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, Wesleyan College, 3400 N. Wesleyan Blvd., Rocky Mount, NC 27804

**Event Description:** The Dunn's season finale, a Mother's Day treat, features comedian Jeanne Robertson. By combining stories based on personal experiences with down-home southern humor, she has garnered 13.5 million hits on YouTube. As former North Carolinian of the Year and Miss America contestant, this delightful, 6'2" beauty will have both you and your mother rolling in the aisles.

**Price:** \$20

**Website:** ncwc.edu/Arts/DunnCenter/

**Contact Information:** Susan Autrey, 252-985-5197, dunncenter@ncwc.edu



### 42nd annual Independence Celebration

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, July 3, 2013, 6:00pm - 9:30pm EDT

**Location:** Rocky Mount Athletic Stadium, 1400 North Church Street, Rocky Mount, NC

**Event Description:** Free to the Public

**Price:** Free

**Website:** www.rockymountnc.gov

**Contact Information:** Debbie Julio, 252 972-1151, events@rockymountnc.gov

### Downtown Live! 2013

**Date & Time:** music in the back courtyard from 6pm to 8:30pm!

May 16	The Embers
May 30	The Voltage Brothers
June 13	The Fantastic Shakers
June 27	The Tams
July 11	Jim Quick & Coastline
July 25	North Tower
Aug 8	Craig Woolard Band
Aug 22	East Coast Rhythm
Sept 5	Fantasy Band
Sept 19	Band of Oz

**Location:** The Imperial Centre for the Arts & Sciences

### Free summer concert series

**Price:** Free

**Website:** http://imperialcentre.org/



## Read, Learn, Connect at the Braswell Memorial Library.

Visit [www.braswell-library.org](http://www.braswell-library.org) for more information.

At the **Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences**, uplift your spirit with Art; nourish your mind with science; delight your senses at the **Imperial Centre Theatre** and enjoy the space with a Facility Rental. Find out more by visiting: [www.imperialcentre.org](http://www.imperialcentre.org).



## Rocky Mount: A Destination Location

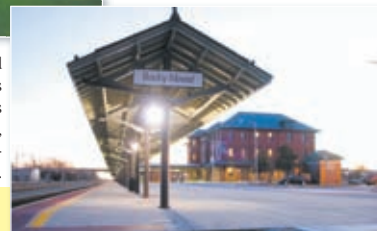
Almost 60,000 individuals reside in Rocky Mount and many others flock to our City throughout the year for many reasons, such as:

The Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences is one of the premier cultural facilities on the eastern seaboard. At 135,000 square feet, the Imperial Centre is home to the Maria V. Howard Arts Center and the Rocky Mount Children's Museum & Science Center.



The Rocky Mount Sports Complex, consisting of a 145-acre park, is equipped with soccer, baseball and softball fields, a disc golf course, two outdoor basketball courts and a walking trail. The Sports Complex is also host to a multitude of regional, state and national sporting events.

The City of Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation Department coordinates several special events, including Paws in the Park, Fun Run for Charities, Downtown Alive, the Harambee Festival and much, much more.



Visit Rocky Mount, N.C. today.

For more information, log on: [www.rockymountnc.gov](http://www.rockymountnc.gov)



## 2013 Operating Budget

On June 25th, the Rocky Mount City Council adopted their annual operating budget for the 2013 fiscal year, which began July 1st. The budget provides funding for general government operations like Police, Fire and Public Works, capital infrastructure, surface transportation maintenance and improvements, and delivery of public utility services.

More information on the budget, as well as analysis of resident costs for services compared to other North Carolina municipalities, is available on our website at [www.rockymountnc.gov/budget](http://www.rockymountnc.gov/budget).

### By the numbers...

**\$212.19 Million** Total FY 2013 Adopted City Budget

**\$55.93 Million** Total FY 2013 Adopted General Fund Budget

**\$17.6 Million** Capital Budget for FY 2013, part of \$105 Million Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

**\$0.57** Of every \$1 of Tax Revenue is used to fund Public Safety (Police and Fire) operations

**\$0.58** City Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2013 (per \$100 Assessed Value)

### Budgets

Legislative	\$1,331,410
Administration	\$1,911,700
Finance	\$1,462,440
Public Safety	\$26,338,720
Public Works/Engineering	\$12,697,990
Parks & Recreation	\$9,734,740
Planning & Development	\$2,450,000
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>\$55,927,000</b>
Surface Transportation & Capital	\$3,251,000
E911 Operations	\$359,000
Public Utilities (Electric & Gas)	\$120,776,960
Water Resources (Water & Sewer)	\$27,120,250
Stormwater Management	\$4,759,200
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$212,193,410</b>

## Property Taxes

Property taxes are due each year on September 1 and payable without interest until January 5. This year, residents have until January 7, 2013 to pay without delinquency considering that January 5, 2013 is a Saturday.

"On January 8, 2013, a penalty of interest will be applied on the current year (2012) taxes," says Felicia Taylor, Revenue Collections Supervisor. "Two percent will be applied in January, and every month thereafter, the interest is three quarters of a percent."

For property tax payment arrangements, please contact the City of Rocky Mount's Customer Service Office at 252-972-1250.

## FREQUENTLY DIALED NUMBERS

### Police/Fire/Medical Emergencies 911

**General City Information/Switchboard**  
**All Departments** 972-1111

### Frequently Called Numbers

**General Information** 972-1111

**City Clerk** 972-1319  
Clerk of Court (Edgecombe) 212-3102  
Clerk of Court (Nash) 212-3100

**City Manager** 972-1325

**City TV-19** 972-1144

**Downtown Development** 972-1267

**Engineering** 972-1121

**Finance**  
Accounting 972-1216  
Administration 972-1200  
Property and Risk Management 972-1202  
Property tax bills 972-1250  
Purchasing 972-1226  
Revenue Collection 972-1250  
Utility Bills/Customer Service (Payments/New Services/Disconnects) 972-1250

**Fire**  
**Emergency Only** 911  
Fire Administration 972-1498  
Fire Marshal 972-1376  
Safety and Training 972-1556  
Employment Training 972-1556  
Public Education 972-1379

**Human Relations** 972-1181

**Human Resources** 972-1186  
Job Line Phone 972-1199

**Parks & Recreations**  
Administration 972-1151  
Athletics 972-1160  
BTW (Booker T. Washington) Community Center 467-4925  
Cemeteries (Battleboro-Northeastern-Pineview) 972-1158  
Children's Museum & Science Center 972-1167  
Denton Street Pool 977-6231  
Imperial Centre 972-1266  
Maria V. Howard Arts Center 972-1163  
Outdoor Recreation 972-1235  
Parks Maintenance 467-4922  
Park/Picnic Reservations 972-1151  
Senior Center 972-1152  
SRM (South Rocky Mount) Community Center 972-1170  
Special Events (Eastern Carolina BBQ Throwdown/Christmas Parade) 972-1151

Special Olympics 972-1155  
Sports Complex 467-6483  
Sunset Park (Carousel/Train/Spray Park/Skatepark) 446-0500

**Planning and Development** 972-1172  
Building Permits 972-1109  
Business Licenses 972-1110  
Historic Preservation 972-1179  
Housing Rehab/Community Development 972-1100  
Inspection Services/Plan Review 972-1110  
Building 972-1110  
Zoning 972-1114  
After Hours 972-1350

**Police**  
**Emergency Only** 911  
Non-Emergency 972-1411  
Non-Emergency TTY (for the hearing impaired) 442-0975  
Police Information 972-1414  
Animal Control/Stray 972-1390  
Animals - Dead Pickup 467-4950  
Crime Prevention 972-1436  
Crime Stoppers 972-1111  
Investigations 972-1450  
Police Chief 972-1471  
Police Reports 972-1435

**Public Utilities**  
Electric (Power Outages/Lines Down/Repairs) 467-4800  
Gas (Leaks/Repairs) 467-4800  
Water or Sewer (Leaks/Blockages/Dirty Water) 467-4800  
Utility Emergencies After Hours/Holidays and Weekends 467-4800

**Public Works**  
Public Works Administration 972-1290  
Appliance/Furniture Pickup 467-4950  
Community Code Enforcement 467-4952  
Abandoned/Junked Vehicles 467-4952  
Delapidated Houses 467-4952  
Overgrown Weeds/Mosquitoes/Rodents 467-4958  
Environmental Services (Trash Collection) 467-4950  
Dumpster Service 467-4950  
Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste/Limb Collection 467-4950  
Loose leaf pickup 467-4906  
Fleet Management 467-4897  
Keep America Beautiful 467-4960  
Street & Stormwater Division 467-4906  
Drainage Problems 467-4906  
Stormwater Hotline 972-1500

**Tar River Transit** 972-1174

**Water Resources**  
Administration 972-1290  
Reservoir Water Treatment Plant 972-1292  
Sunset Water Treatment Plant 972-1293  
Wastewater Treatment Plant 972-1400



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The Rocky Mount City Council and Mayor David Combs have adopted a bold, transformational vision for the City of Rocky Mount. A part of this vision is to develop a vibrant City center. The first part of that vision was realized with the revitalization of the Douglas Block.